



Councilmember Todd K. Apo

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*City & County of Honolulu • City Council District 1
Ewa • Kapolei • Wai'anae Coast*



SEPT 2009

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Aloha! Recently there were several newspaper articles discussing the City's rail project revenue expectations. This revenue data was from a draft of a financial document the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) submitted in May 2009 to the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). We all know that the General Excise Tax (GET) revenue is, in the short term, lower than was estimated a couple of years ago. We also know that construction costs will be lower than estimated at that time. Later this month, the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and final financial plan will be delivered. At that point, we all will be able to best assess the financial viability of the rail project. I expect the financial reports to reflect both the revised revenue expectations as well as the updated cost expectations. Neither the Council nor the FTA will support a project that is not financially feasible.

The key issue raised in the news article was why this document was not shared with the Honolulu City Council. The City DTS has argued that the May report was only a working draft, required as part of the City's FTA application to proceed into Preliminary Engineering, which was approved by the FTA.

The Council understands that information and figures can always change during a drafting process. The Council always strives to facilitate an open dialogue and information exchange with the Administration for all City projects. This creates an open, transparent government, with both branches equally informed with the same information. As the Administration moves forward in the planning of rail, the Council wants to be sure they are as accurately informed and equipped to make adjustments to the project's financing mechanisms as needed. To that end, I am working with the City Administration to identify specific project milestones where the Council and public can expect certain sets of information. This will help provide the assurances and transparency we all desire.

I continue to stand behind our rail project and support the creation of this much-needed alternative transportation option for our island, especially as Honolulu continues to grow into the 21st century. As I have said many times before: as the City moves forward on rail, it is also important to do it right.

Your comments and questions are always welcome. You may contact me at tapo@honolulu.gov or 768-5001. Also, please visit www.toddapo.org to sign up for our monthly E-Newsletter.

COUNCIL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

TUES, September 1

9 a.m. Zoning
1 p.m. Public Infrastructure

WEDS, September 2

9 a.m. Budget
1 p.m. Executive Matters

THURS, September 3

9 a.m. Transportation
11 a.m. Public Safety & Services
1 p.m. Planning

WEDS, September 16

9 a.m. Full Council

OCTOBER

TUES, October 6

9 a.m. Zoning
1 p.m. Public Infrastructure

WEDS, October 7

9 a.m. Budget
1 p.m. Executive Matters

THURS, October 8

9 a.m. Transportation
11 a.m. Public Safety & Services
1 p.m. Planning

WEDS, October 28

9 a.m. Full Council

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Resolution 09-227, CD1 – Relating to Shipping of Solid Waste

This resolution establishes a policy on the shipment of solid waste out-of-state. On August 18, the Council's Committee on Public Infrastructure thoroughly discussed this legislation's liability issues; whether it encroaches on the balance of power doctrine; and the need for the City to pursue alternatives to land filling in managing its solid waste. Committee members agreed that the City should maintain flow control which is necessary to operate its recycling and waste-to-energy programs. Flow data in Resolution 09-227, CD1 reflects information previously reported by the Department of Environmental Services. These figures indicate that there remains an adequate refuse stream to implement shipping as well as to sustain H-Power operations and the city's recycling program. The resolution also contains provisions and triggers by which the City can exercise flow control to maintain these two operations if necessary. Resolution 09-227, CD1 was adopted by the Honolulu City Council at the August 26 meeting.

Bill 55, CD1 – Relating to Public Transit (Amending the public transit fare provisions for disabled persons)

This legislation corrects an anomaly in the current Ordinance 08-20. Bill 55, CD1 will continue to allow disabled riders to simultaneously maintain a Handivan pass and a disabled pass for TheBus. Passed Second Reading by Full Council on August 26.

FILING DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30: Real Property Tax Credit for Homeowners

Qualified homeowners may file for a Real Property Tax Credit for the 2010-2011 tax year. To see if you qualify, please review an application packet, which is available at the following locations:

- Satellite City Halls
- Treasury Division, Honolulu Hale (530 South King Street, #115)
- Tax Relief Section, Standard Financial Building (715 South King Street, #505)
- On the web: www.honolulu.gov/budget/homeownerscredit2010.pdf

For more information, please call 768-3205. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2009.

CDBG & HOME Grant Applications Now Available

Applications for the 2011 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership funds are now available through the City's Department of Budget and Fiscal Services. The CDBG funds are granted to projects benefitting the low- and moderate-income community, and HOME funds are geared toward qualified organizations that develop and support affordable rental housing and homeownership.

Interested organizations may apply through the Request for Proposal forms, available at the Division of Purchasing, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, Room 115, or online at www.honolulu.gov/pur. There will also be an informational meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the Mission Memorial Auditorium, 550 South King Street, Honolulu. Deadline for applications for both grant programs is 4:00 p.m., October 2, 2009.

OPALA: Bulky Item Pick-Up

Across the island, evidence and reports of illegal dumping continue to surface. The allegations of illegal dumping in Ma‘ili‘ili Stream remain fresh in our minds as a reminder that environmental stewardship and accountability is everyone’s business and that it’s a duty that is equally shared from top to bottom. In an effort to combat the latest trend of indiscriminant waste placement, the Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Division administration has increased its bulky item pickup service to cover the entire island. A bulky item pickup schedule has been provided for your convenience. It is requested that bulky items be left out no longer than 48 hours before a scheduled pickup. If you have questions about the bulky item pickup schedule or the types of materials that qualify for pickup, please contact the Department of Environmental Services at 697-1178; or visit:

http://www.opala.org/solid_waste/bulky_item_pickup.html.

If you suspect or observe illegal dumping please report it to the City’s illegal dumping hotline at 768-3300 or call 911 immediately.

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP SCHEDULE

West Oahu: Halawa to Makakilo

Sector 11: Makakilo, Kapolei and Barber’s Point Housing

1st Monday

Sector 12: Ewa Gentry (west of Ft. Weaver Rd. and north of Iroquois Point Rd.), Ocean Pointe, Ewa, West Loch and Honouliuli

1st Wednesday

Sector 13: Ewa Beach, Iroquois Point and Ewa Gentry (east of Ft. Weaver Rd. and south of Iroquois Point Rd.)

2nd Monday

Leeward Coast: Makaha to Honokai Hale

Sector 31: Makaha, Waianae (west of Waianae Valley Rd.)

1st Monday

Sector 32: Waianae (west of Mailiilii Rd. and east of Waianae Valley Rd.)

2nd Monday

Sector 33: Maili (west of Hakimo Rd. and east of Mailiilii Rd.)

3rd Monday

Sector 34: Nanakuli, Honokai Hale

4th Monday

**Department of Environmental Services
697-1178**

**Illegal Dumping Hotline
768-3300
or
call 911**