



CITY COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO SINK TheBoat

Today, the City Council Budget Committee eliminated funding for TheBoat intra-island ferry system. The amendment eliminating the \$5 million funding for TheBoat was proposed by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) and three other councilmembers.

“TheBoat is a nice idea push by the mayor, but it is clearly too expensive. Given our current fiscal picture, we cannot afford a \$5 million system that costs taxpayers over \$120/person for a round trip,” stated Councilmember Djou. “We need to tighten our budget and TheBoat is beyond our community’s fiscal means.”

TheBoat was initially launched with a Federal grant. For the upcoming fiscal year, however, the Federal grant runs out and the program has to be entirely funded with City taxpayer funds. If funded by the City Council, TheBoat would be the most expensive transportation program in Hawaii on a per passenger basis. Councilmember Djou also called for further cuts in the upcoming City budget beyond TheBoat and opposes proposals to increase the property tax and vehicle tax. City spending has increased from \$1.5 billion in FY2005 to a proposed \$3.5 billion for FY2010.

The Administration is expected to release a study on TheBoat at the end of April. The City budget is expected to be finalized in mid-April.

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