



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DO RAIL RIGHT – CONNECT THE AIRPORT & PEARL HARBOR

Yesterday, after Oahu residents voted in favor of establishing a Honolulu rail system, City Councilmembers Todd Apo (Waianae, Kapolei, West Oahu) and Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), who have been on opposite sides of the rail debate, together introduced a new bill to connect the airport and Pearl Harbor on the City's rail route.

Councilmember Apo, a consistent rail supporter, remarked, "Tuesday's vote sent a clear message that the public wants rail. We must make every effort to complete a project of this magnitude to best serve our island residents. This means not only serving residential areas, but the employment centers and connecting all transportation modes, especially the airport."

Councilmember Djou, a past rail opponent, commented, "Although the vote was very close, the people have spoken and I will respect the will of the electorate for rail. If we are now going to do rail, I am committed to making sure it gets done right. The first thing the council needs to fix is connecting the airport and Pearl Harbor. The current rail plan foolishly does not link up the airport and that must be changed before the City starts preliminary engineering."

In March of 2007, the Honolulu City Council adopted a locally preferred alternative route for the minimum operating segment ("MOS") of the proposed rail system. The MOS adopted by the City Council dropped the airport from the route in favor of a path that instead went down Salt Lake Boulevard.

Bill 64 (2008), introduced by Councilmembers Apo and Djou, reverses this decision to send the rail down Salt Lake Boulevard. Instead, under Apo and Djou's measure, the route will go to the airport and Pearl Harbor as it was originally designed. As both routes were studied in the EIS, this change will not delay the project's timeline, and will still allow for the consideration of a spur to the Salt Lake residential areas. The MOS will be the first segment of the rail system that will be built. The bill introduced by Councilmembers Apo and Djou will go for first reading on November 12, and likely have its first committee hearing on November 20.

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