



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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LET'S END POLITICAL DONATIONS BY RAIL VENDORS

Tomorrow, Councilmembers Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Mililani, North Shore, Ahuimanu), Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) and Ann H. Kobayashi (Manoa, Palolo) will begin circulating a petition to the mayor and the rest of the Honolulu City Council to decline any political donations from any rail technology firm bidding on the Honolulu mass transit system and return any such donations already received.

“The mayor has rightly complained about excessive ‘lobbying’ by rail transit companies. I invite the mayor and the rest of the Honolulu City Council to join me in refusing to accept any political donations from any rail technology company and return any funds that may have already been accepted,” stated Councilmember Dela Cruz. “The political contributions by these rail vendors, as well as the contractors and subcontractors for the rail system, undermines public confidence in the entire process.”

“While accepting such funds may be legal it isn’t right. Given the high profile of the rail project and the common desire to make this project’s process as open and transparent as possible, I believe all of Honolulu’s elected officials should refuse campaign donations from these multinational rail manufacturing companies,” stated Councilmember Djou.

“This petition will help make the important process of mass transit more open and transparent,” commented Councilmember Kobayashi

The voluntary pledge by Dela Cruz, Djou and Kobayashi only affects donations from the ten companies that have responded to the RFI to build Honolulu’s rail system. The Honolulu City Council is poised to vote on the selection of the rail technology at its April 16th meeting.

Although Honolulu Mufi Hannemann has publicly lamented that “there’s money to be made” by City elected officials in the rail technology vote and Councilmembers are “being lobbied” in anticipation of the City Council’s vote on rail technology on April 16th, the mayor has accepted thousands of dollars in campaign donations from several prospective rail vendors as well as thousands more from rail contractors and subcontractors.

Councilmembers Dela Cruz, Djou and Kobayashi hope to have their petition signed by as many city elected officials as possible prior to the April 16th rail technology vote.

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