



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: FIXING RAIL – CHANGING THE DOWNTOWN ROUTE

Yesterday, Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced legislation to address yet another concern regarding the proposed Honolulu rail system. Djou's measure shifts the rail route in downtown from Halekauwila Street to Queen Street. Djou introduced this legislation at the request of Federal government officials.

"Clearly, the City administration has rushed and sloppily planned the rail system as additional concerns continue to crop up even after last fall's rail vote. The request by Federal officials to shift the rail system away from the Federal building should have been addressed months ago by the administration and now deserves careful attention by the City Council; especially since the City is asking that same Federal government for over \$1 bil. in funding for rail," commented Councilmember Djou.

Last month, citing concerns over safety of the Federal building, Helen Gilmore, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in Hawaii, in her capacity as the senior administrator of the Federal Judiciary in Hawaii, along with the U.S. Marshal's office and the Federal General Services Administration, asked the City to move the proposed rail system route in downtown 1 block mauka, from Halekauwila Street to Queen Street. The City government is currently in the process of applying for over \$1 bil. in Federal funding to help pay for the cost of building the proposed rail system.

The City taxpayers spent over \$10 mil. in an alternative analysis looking at the proposed rail system routes and has contracted to spend over \$100 mil. for the design of the rail route.

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