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CHIEF CLERK
CAROL TANIGUCHI

February 25, 2010

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor
Executive Chambers
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Governor Lingle,

We, the undersigned members of the Senate, urge you to review and accept the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Honolulu Rail Transit Project in a timely manner once the document is released by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The benefits of rail transit, which include the creation of new jobs during a particularly difficult time for our economy, have been well-documented.

We are nearing the end of a five-year process that included a thorough examination of our transportation alternatives, an environmental impact study, support from Congress, numerous opportunities for public input, voter approval in November 2008, and a recent vote of confidence by the Obama administration to include \$55 million in federal funds for rail, with an expectation of \$1.55 billion in construction funds during the coming years. We believe this to be a phenomenal demonstration of confidence for Honolulu's Rail Transit Project.

Considering the many years of study and public input, it doesn't make sense to delay this project from moving forward. Our opinion is seconded by the FTA and U.S. Department of Transportation, neither of which sees anything at this point to preclude us from making rail transit a reality. The longer we delay Oahu's economic recovery, the longer we leave our working families unemployed and struggling during this prolonged recession.

We therefore request that you act quickly in accepting the final Environmental Impact Statement once it is released by the FTA.

Sincerely,



Sen. Mike Gabbard



Sen. Will Espero



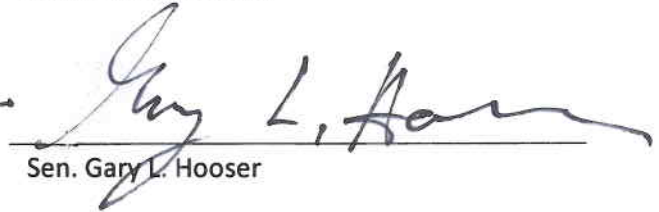
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