



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMS-AP00-00265

HONOLULU AUTHORITY for RAPID TRANSPORTATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

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July 23, 2012

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The Honorable Ann Kobayashi, Chair  
and Members of the Budget Committee  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Chair Kobayashi and Councilmembers:

Subject: Resolution 12-160, Urging the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to Limit Public Relations and Public Involvement Activity to One Position Within HART and to Terminate All Public Relations and Involvement Services Contracts.

I will be out of town from July 23 through July 26, 2012, to meet with congressional and Federal officials on transit funding and, therefore, am unable to attend your July 25, 2012, Budget Committee meeting. For this reason, I wish to submit this written testimony in opposition of Resolution 12-160.

I have testified before the full Council and at Budget Committee meetings on several occasions that I am in the process of reviewing HART's staffing plan and assessing the needs of our organization. On July 10, 2012, the City Council received written notification of HART's reductions totaling more than \$2.8 million as a result of eliminating eight public involvement subconsultants, reducing two subcontracts to half time, consolidating two HART Information Specialist positions, eliminating two Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) staff positions, and reducing another PB staff position to part-time status. The reduction of HART's public involvement staff and contractors from 23 to 9.5 Full Time Equivalent positions acknowledges the heavier levels of public outreach needed for the planning phase are no longer necessary as we begin the construction phase of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project.

I have also testified that I will reassess HART's staff plan in six months to evaluate staffing levels to continue a public information program as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Grabauskas  
Executive Director and CEO

cc: HART Board of Directors  
Mr. Douglas S. Chin, Managing Director