

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

August 6, 2020

Ms. Angela Gates
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications and Congressional Affairs
Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Mr. Howard R. "Skip" Elliott
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington D.C. 20590

**RE: HONOLULU CITY COUNCILMEMBER REQUESTING FEDERAL OVERSIGHT IN
HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSIT AWARD OF CONTRACTS**

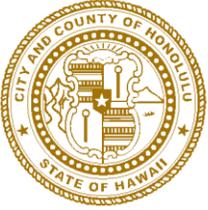
Aloha Ms. Gates and Mr. Elliott,

As you may be aware, the City and County of Honolulu's rail project, led by the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART), has encountered many financial challenges and setbacks. HART is currently considering two proposals for a public-private partnership (P3) to select the contractor that will operate the system for 30 years and also complete the last 4 miles of the rail construction which goes directly through the urban core of Honolulu County.

I am extremely concerned about the lack of transparency in this process. HART refuses to release the details of the two proposals or their terms until after it awards the P3 contract. The original cost of the project was around \$4 billion, now it is closer to \$9.2 billion. As you know, HART and some City personnel are already being investigated for a number of questionable activities and procurement issues.

Due to the HART's already dubious past in Honolulu, the current economic crisis and the fact that tourism revenue is at a standstill, the taxpayers and I are extremely concerned about HART and the City Administration's ability to select the best contractor for the right reasons.

As the City Councilmember whose district stands the most to lose and to gain from the outcome of the rail project, I feel that it is necessary for me to officially request that the Federal Government, through the Federal Transit Administration step in to oversee the next phase of this project, the awarding of public-private-partnership, or P3 contracts.



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I am asking the FTA to get involved in the contract-awarding process to protect taxpayer dollars, to ensure that contracts are awarded fairly and to see to it that the City will only pay the best possible prices, going forward.

I do not wish to delay the project further or cause undue complications, however, level heads must prevail and as a City Councilmember, I believe it is my responsibility to encourage transparency and to expose opportunities for possible corruption.

Thank you in advance for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 768-5001 or kmpine@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kym Pine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kym Pine

Councilmember
City and County of Honolulu
District 1

