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HONOLULU AUTHORITY for RAPID TRANSPORTATION

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Daniel A. Grabauskas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

August 13, 2012

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The Honorable Tom Berg
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Councilmember Berg:

In response to your letter dated July 30, 2012, regarding *iwi kupuna*, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) provides the following:

Question: Have *iwi* been identified along the 20-mile Right-Of-Way for the HART rail project?

Response: No *iwi kupuna* have been identified to date within the areas of potential effect of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project. Archaeological Inventory Surveys (AIS) have been completed for Section I (West Oahu/Farrington Highway Guideway Section) and Section II (Kamehameha Highway Guideway Section), with no *iwi kupuna* found. Surveys in Sections III (Airport) and IV (City Center) are in progress with 64 of 272 trenches completed to date, and no *iwi kupuna* found. AIS field work is expected to continue through the end of the year.

Question: If *iwi* have been identified, has the land containing the *iwi* already been purchased? And if it was purchased, why was it done before the completion of the necessary AIS?

Response: No *iwi kupuna* have been found to date.

Question: Upon *iwi* discovery, will the route have to be realigned to avoid them? Will this realignment necessitate the need for more land acquisition? Or is "relocation" of the *iwi* the method of choice?

Response: Upon discovery of *iwi kupuna* during the AIS, several project design options are possible, such as column placement or design changes. Land acquisition refinement would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Often a minor alignment shift would not change land acquisition needs. The final treatment decision for the *iwi kupuna* will be made by the Oahu Island Burial Council if the discovery is made during the AIS and by the State Historic Preservation Division if the discovery is made during subsequent construction.

Question: How many archaeologists are assigned to this project and at what cost?

Response: Cultural Surveys Hawaii (CSH) is contracted to provide archaeological services to the project. CSH provides multiple crews for the AIS field work, in addition to personnel that prepare AIS, data recovery, and monitoring plans and reports. Each field crew consists of four archaeologists and one support staff. The AIS field work for Airport and City Center has been contracted for \$964,614 for the investigation of 272 trenches.

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Question: Identify the cost overruns that have increased the land acquisition cost from \$90 million to nearly three times that, and what warrants such changes.

Response: We are unable to identify the basis of the \$90 million you refer to in your inquiry. The current real estate and relocation estimate is \$222.19 million, which reflects current design requirements, assessed valuations, appraisals, and actual expenditures

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Grabauskas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel A. Grabauskas
Executive Director and CEO

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