



# 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

**TOM BERG**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT I  
PH: (808) 768-5001  
FAX: (808) 768-5011  
EMAIL: [tberg@honolulu.gov](mailto:tberg@honolulu.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.councilmanberg.com](http://www.councilmanberg.com)

July 6, 2012

Aloha Director Grabauskas,

I am seeking information from you as to where in any rule, procedure, or otherwise, the federal government mandates a requisite that in order to receive federal funding for the rail project at this juncture, HART must deploy millions a year in advertisements, notifications, and communications entailing 24 entities to perform and execute that task.

These are tasks not related to executing/awarding or signing contracts or putting out bids to construct the rail project, but rather the tasks for public outreach that is covered in HART's newsletters, trinkets, coloring books, and other types of communications- being present at fairs with booths etc., meaning, just exactly what do 24 entities in public outreach do that requires a \$4 million in payroll expenditure each year?

My specific question at the Budget Committee hearing on resolution 12-149, was where does the language exist - where is the mandate, rule, requisite, HART have public outreach and to what extent? I am asking you to please cite the federal rule that requires this be executed in order to receive federal monies.

Please do not send me an entire manual, just cite the part in it - where it states that public outreach at this juncture of our rail project, in construction phase, requires the level of public outreach you are facilitating. Does the federal government require public outreach of the degree HART is undertaking? Please reference it for me.

Asked in another way, is HART allowed to proceed on the rail project without hiring additional public outreach personnel and can satisfy the communications desired through you alone instead? Couldn't you yourself be that go to person to answer the media's inquiries, and your secretary disseminate any construction notices- and operate a website to convey the same? If the federal government requires public outreach, wouldn't your position alone satisfy that mandate if such exists? Why are additional hires costing over \$4 million a year necessary above what you do for HART?

The State Department of Transportation receives federal monies to subsidize highway projects- yet, nowhere does it exist to my knowledge, that in order to be in receipt of that subsidy, the state DOT must deploy a public outreach team for every construction project. Is rail different? Please provide the language that says it so. If you do not do public outreach for the rail, will you lose federal funding for the project, yes or no?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TOM BERG". The signature is written in a bold, cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "B".

TOM BERG  
Councilmember – District 1  
Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Waianae Coast

CC: Chair Ernie Martin, Honolulu City Council & Joyce Oliveira, HART