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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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January 30, 2026

The Honorable Radiant Cordero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation & Technology
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Cordero and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Testimony on Bill 60 (2025), Proposed CD2

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) provides comments on Bill 60 (2025), proposed CD2. The Bill approves all extensions to the minimum operable segment that adhere to the locally preferred alternative, which will facilitate the expansion of the rail system and allow the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to develop the entire locally preferred alternative.

Planning for Skyline rail transit extensions is a critical first step to provide clarity for investments. Once an extension route is finalized, related efforts may ensue, including for route acquisition or preservation (until construction), and for transit-oriented development (TOD). The planning phase of these efforts alone will occur over many years. Only then can property owners realistically start preparing their own development plans, guided by these preceding efforts and commitments.

As Skyline and TOD are mutually beneficial, we emphasize the importance of DPP's role in TOD and land use considerations at the forefront of route extension planning to ensure success (e.g., determining approximate rail station locations based on future TOD potential and land use policies). Nevertheless, this is ultimately a coordinated inter-agency approach and we look forward to working with HART. We are under the assumption that the intent of this Bill is not for any of HART's planning work to supersede the collective decisions that are necessary for carrying out the locally preferred alternative.

DEPT. COM. 58(26) ITT

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 768-8000.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director

APPROVED:

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