



A Big Day: *Rail transit breaks ground in Kapolei*

An idea that has been around for more than 40 years gathered momentum in recent years and got its first firm foothold on February 22, 2011 — the groundbreaking and blessing for the Honolulu Rail Transit project at Kualalai Parkway (North-South Road) in East Kapolei.

The 20-mile rail project, which is expected to cost \$5.5 billion, will connect Kapolei to Ala Moana Center with 21 stations planned along the route. The long anticipated project will create thousands of jobs and provide a badly needed transportation alternative that will benefit Oahu for generations to come, Mayor Peter Carlisle told the more than 400 people at the event.



Lt. Governor Brian Schatz saw rail's opportunities including transit-oriented development. "Rail offers great promise for the island of Oahu. It allows people to spend more time with their families and less time in their vehicles. Rail will positively transform Oahu's landscape with affordable housing, mixed-use development and other smart growth opportunities."

City Council Chair Nestor Garcia, a longtime rail proponent, said, "The solution to traffic congestion is now here — a mode of transportation that, when completed, would give people a choice — rather than rely only on what former Mayor Neal Blaisdell called a 'noxious mechanism' in reference to Oahu's exhaust-spewing, vehicle-clogged roadways."

Former Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who revived the idea of rail and moved it forward, commented, "I always knew that rail transit was

long overdue for Oahu, especially Kapolei. That's why my team and I worked so hard with the community to bring about transportation solutions for families and businesses who share the vision of a second city. Thanks to rail, they will now realize our dream of a great city on Oahu."

Maeda Timson, chair of the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board, said, "Thousands of us moved to Kapolei decades ago with the dream of raising our families in the new city that has its roots in James Campbell's vision for the Ewa plain. For years we advocated for rail for our growing community and were disappointed each time when all efforts failed. Today's groundbreaking signifies the beginning of a new era of opportunity for Kapolei and for all of us who call it home."

Richard Dahl, James Campbell Company's president and CEO, sees rail transit as an important milestone in the development of the City of Kapolei. "Rail will play a critical role in advancing the long range master plan for Kapolei as Oahu's new city and as the state's next major economic center. It's an exciting day for Kapolei!"



"The Honolulu rail transit project will transform how we travel, work, play, and live," Carlisle said. "The project is the effort of many people throughout the years. Rail will provide thousands of jobs for our local work force, relieve traffic congestion, improve mobility, and pave the way for an exciting future for Oahu residents. It is our gift to a better future."

U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, who is largely responsible for securing federal funding for the project, said, "This groundbreaking has been very long in coming — with decades of planning, financing, hand-wringing and persevering. What a difference it will make for the residents of West Oahu — jobs in the short run, and improved mobility in the long run. Let's get going!"



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Kapolei Chamber of Commerce Luncheon to feature

- Gov. Neil Abercrombie reflecting on his first 100 days.
- Scott Seu, Vice President of Energy Resources, giving an update on HECO's clean energy progress statewide and in Kapolei.

Friday, March 18, 2011
Ihilani Hotel
Ocean Ballroom
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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KAPOLEI PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Kapolei Property Development is an affiliate of the James Campbell Company with a focus on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

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