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Fasi says he 'cannot communicate' on H-3

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Mayor Frank Fasi remains unswayed in his opposition to the H-3 freeway, but he says it's difficult getting his message to voters.

Fasi this week complained that only one of three Honolulu network-affiliated television stations broadcast a city-produced show that presents Fasi's case against H-3.

The half-hour show cost \$19,000 of city money to produce. A group calling itself Transit Challenge Hawaii paid \$2,000 to KHON-TV (Channel 2) for broadcast last Sunday.

However, KITV (Channel 4) and

KGMB-TV (Channel 9) declined to air the show.

Fasi said he was "surprised and disappointed" with the rebuff.

"I cannot communicate with my constituents," he said. "That's strictly a city film, a report from the mayor."

The two station officials who decided against airing the program were unavailable for comment yesterday.

However, James R. Doney, KGMB community services and human resources director, said the airing of the networks' fall programs left little extra available air time.

In addition, airing such a program "opens up the fairness doctrine, especially when they wanted to run so

close to the Sept. 30 deadline" for transferring the \$716 million in federal funding for H-3 to other projects.

Under the federal doctrine, stations must allow "provide a reasonable opportunity" for those with opposing views to respond to political messages, Doney said.

There would have been little time to allow for responses, Doney said.

He added that city Transportation Services Director John Hirten and Planning Director Donald Clegg appeared on "PS 9" — KGMB's weekly public affairs show hosted by Doney — to present the city's case against H-3 in May.

"We have not deprived them of an

opportunity to get their message out," Doney said. He added that the H-3 debate "has been well covered in the news."

Fasi says he has not given up hope that federal funds for H-3 can still be shifted to other projects.

He favors using some of the \$716 million for construction of a mass transit system, perhaps connecting Honolulu to Central Oahu, where most new development is planned. The rest of the money, he says, could be used to improve traffic flow on the existing Windward Oahu corridors, Pali and Likelike highways.

If H-3 is built, Fasi said, Windward Oahu will not be able to withstand pressures to urbanize.