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## State view on H-3

The Honolulu Advertiser editorial entitled "HART Jr. & H-3" suggests that H-3 funds should be spent on upgrading Pali and Likelike Highways and using the remainder of the funds on a new rapid transit system.

Despite the recent federal court decisions, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) remains committed to build H-3 because it is needed. We will continue to pursue completion of the project both in the courts and administratively.

The judgment of the governor in steadfastly supporting H-3 is reinforced by the many polls clearly showing that the majority of the people favor completion of H-3. Support is increasing as congestion on the Pali and Likelike worsens. H-3 should be completed.

The upgrade alternatives of the Pali and Likelike espoused by the opponents of H-3 have been examined and reexamined many times over the past 20 years by the state DOT with the same conclusion.

There is simply no space in these heavily populated valleys to provide for the projected increase in trans-Koolau vehicular traffic from

the present 90,000 vehicles per day to 120,000 vehicles per day by the year 2000. The space cannot be provided without massive community disruption.

When we conducted the trans-Koolau Transportation forums in 1977, the message from the residents and legislators representing these valleys was clear — strong opposition to any major transportation improvements and attendant family dislocations in the Nuuanu and Kalihi valleys. A state legislator representing both valleys vowed that no state funding would be appropriated for any major transportation improvement project in the valleys.

In any event, from the standpoint of transportation planning, the North Halawa Valley alignment directly connecting Kaneohe to the Halawa Interchange makes more sense, as about 30 percent of the trans-Koolau traffic will be served by this alignment.

Windward commuters will not have to travel along the congested H-1 between downtown and Middle Street to reach destinations in Leeward Oahu and vice versa . . .

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