

# Faithful Citizenship

July 20, 2008

I remember years ago listening to Senator Inouye talk about a spending bill that he was working on. He said something like this: "This may cost \$1 million or \$2 million, and pretty soon we'll be talking about a lot of money here." Even then a million dollars was nothing. Today, it will barely cover the cost of hiring a consultant to help you find another consultant for a small project. It's that desensitization to spending large amounts of taxpayer money that pervades the rail project.

On a project as large as this transit proposal I would hope that the right hand would know what the left hand is doing. The state has been developing its judiciary and other offices out in the Kapolei area, hoping to move people out of Honolulu rather than the other direction. This plan, along with commercial development as well as an expanded West Oahu campus will provide employment and educational opportunities for the Leeward residents. This would represent a huge shift in traffic flow.

And somewhere along the line, this project went from an efficient way to move traffic to an economic stimulus package. I hear more talk about the potential for development and construction jobs than I do about the simple process of moving us around faster.

And finally, the mayor himself has said just recently that he supports the initiative process. Why, then, does he object to the petition to put the issue of rail on the November ballot. I understand the technicalities involved, but even in government, where there's a will there's a way. I can only assume that he doesn't expect to be in town when the real bill comes in on the rail system. Call your council member to voice your opinion either way.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! Aloha - Mary B.