

Housing Hawaii Supports Proposed Mass Transit System for Oahu **Transit Oriented Development Viewed as Affordable Housing Resource**

For Immediate Release

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Honolulu, Hawaii July 17, 2008 – Housing Hawaii, a non-profit grass roots organization dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing, is proud to announce its support of the City and County of Honolulu’s proposed mass transit system for Oahu.

“Our state and particularly our island, Oahu, have experienced a severe shortage of affordable housing for a number of years now,” said Housing Hawaii Board President, Kevin Carney. “The shortage was acknowledged by our State Legislature as a Housing Crisis in 2006. The situation has not improved over the past couple of years and will continue to get worse unless something is done to fill the ever increasing demand. Statewide we are thousands of units short of both affordable for-sale housing and affordable rental housing. Our Housing Hawaii board believes that Transit Oriented Development (TOD), planned carefully in combination with the proposed mass transit system will help solve our affordable housing crisis while at the same time providing viable transportation options for Hawaii’s working families. We see this as a win-win situation for both transit and affordable housing,” said Carney.

Under concepts now being considered for Honolulu’s TOD, increased densities may be allowed along the transit route at transit stations, encouraging and enabling the creation of affordable housing. Housing Hawaii supports the increase in density if it includes a requirement for an affordable housing component of both for-sale and rental housing at each of these stations.

Housing Hawaii was founded in 2006. It is a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations and individuals dedicated to creating, preserving and supporting affordable housing through education and development. For more information call 808-523-8826 or visit www.housinghawaii.org.

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