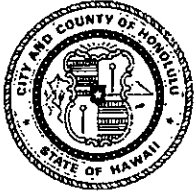


JUL 21 2009 3:30 PM  
TO: CLK MAIN

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

NO. 501 P. 1  
FROM: COUNCIL GARCIA



RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
C & C OF HONOLULU

JUL 21 3 30 PM '09

**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

**NESTOR GARCIA**  
Councilmember  
Council District IX  
(808) 768-5009 (Voice)  
(808) 768-5011 (Fax)  
ngarcia@honolulu.gov

**For Immediate Release**  
July 21, 2009

Media contact: Darrell Young, 768-5050  
or 294-4760

## **FTA Report Validates City's Proposed Mass Transit Projections**

Acting Council Chair Nestor Garcia today said he is pleased with the latest Federal Transit Administration (FTA) report that qualifies Honolulu's rail project to move to the Preliminary Engineering phase and apply for federal New Starts funding.

"The report demonstrates that the city has been working closely with the Federal Transit Administration, which has provided stringent oversight during this whole process," Garcia said, adding that "major transit projects that hope to be funded through the FTA's New Starts Program use a risk-informed assessment process to review and validate a project sponsor's budget and schedule. Cities like Seattle and Phoenix, which recently began operating their rail systems, have gone through the same process Honolulu is undertaking."

He said the report provides him with a greater comfort level for the massive, multi-billion-dollar project, and said he hopes the public also finds some reassurance that the federal government is closely monitoring the city's efforts.

Garcia is serving as chair of the Council while Chair Todd Apo is off island.

###