

## **YOUTH IMPORTANT IN VOTE SUPPORTING RAIL**

Please stop saying that rail transit has "divided" the city along "geographic lines." All across O'ahu, rail transit received between 42 percent and 66 percent approval. Nowhere was rail decisively rejected. Indeed, the real dividing line was probably youth and wealth.

An example of this "division by zero" is the Nov. 12 column by Jerry Burris, "Common good gets short shrift" (Nov. 12). While supporting the rail project, Burris portrayed the people in the districts that voted "no" as selfishly opposing any project that does not serve their neighborhood. In fact, in Hawai'i Kai and Kane'ohe, four voters voted "yes" for every five voters voting "no." That shows noteworthy aloha and public spiritedness.

Turnout partly explains the result. Nearly 11,000 votes were cast in the Waipahu area (District 41), and rail won by 66 percent. Around Wai'anae (District 45), barely 5,000 voted and rail lost by 51 percent.

What the media missed was youth support for rail. College-age and even teenage volunteers were vital in the "Yes 4 Rail" campaign, knocking on doors and calling phones, because they saw rail transit as our first step toward the "green economy" that President-elect Barack Obama wants to build.

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