

Amy Ford-Wagner

From: OahuMPO <oahumpo@oahumpo.org>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2016 5:43 AM
To: OahuMPO
Subject: New submission from General Comments

Name

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Subject:

Miscellaneous

Description (optional):

Removal of Hawaiian Railway Society project 206 and 304

Comment

Recently I was informed that to connect two roads, the yard and ROW of the Hawaiian Railway Society would be demolished. Now while it may be beneficial to have a road connecting the two, especially near the mall, the society and ROW is on the national register of historic places. The Hawaiian railway society is the embodiment of the US's largest and most complex class one narrow gauge railroad to ever exist, and without that railroad, the Oahu Railway and Land company, Oahu wouldn't be where it is today. Agriculture could never have thrived on Oahu, leading to no expansion of towns and cities. Without the railroad, Pearl city wouldn't exist. The creator of the OR&L, Benjamin Franklin Dillingham designed Pearl city and also dug many artisan wells along the west side of Oahu. Ewa was one of the places which was all coral plains until the railroad came along, creating an industry. Once the railroad ceased operations and the navy took over, they played very vital parts in the Korean conflict, and once they were gone, the Hawaiian Railway Society stepped in to save this lengthy history. This group and yard contain the last pieces of a very long, very important history, one that shaped not only Oahu, but Hawaii. I implore that you help save this unique history so that Hawaii's future children can learn more about the world from which they come from, and to do so the you folks should build the road else ware so that the ROW and Yard are not destroyed. Once history is gone, it's gone for good. Please make the right choice. Mahalo.