



Editorial| Letters

Lawsuits bear manini blame for rail costs

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Francis Nakamoto erroneously blames soaring rail costs on “meritless legal obstacles” (“Lawsuits kept rail from moving ahead,” Star-Advertiser, Letters, Sept. 1).

The federal lawsuit briefly affected the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation’s ability to buy land in the downtown segment, but never affected rail construction or construction bidding.

That lawsuit increased rail costs by less than one-tenth of 1 percent, according to HART.

The other lawsuit ended with the Hawaii Supreme Court unanimously ordering construction stopped until the city completed an archaeological study. Blaming the plaintiff for the 13-month delay would be comparable to blaming an innocent crime victim for seeking justice.

Federal Transit Administration officials noted in interoffice email that the city started construction “without authority despite warnings that it would create an ineligibility for the project.”

FTA officials also commented on the city’s “lousy practices of public manipulation,” willingness to “deceive with no remorse,” and culture of “never enough time to do it right, but lots of time to do it over.”

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