What’s That Sound? It’s A Train That’s Coming

On Feb. 8, roughly 3,000 people turned out for a firsthand look at Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation’s train and nearly completed Hālualani station at Leeward Community College. Just a day earlier, HART had invited 200 Leeward high school students and their teachers to have their own preview.

I stopped by and participated in both activities. On the previous day, I witnessed firsthand the reaction of students from nearby ‘Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahu, Kapolei, Campbell and Waia’anae. The expression on their faces was a sight to behold because of their interest in subjects like science, technology and math. I was brimming with optimism and hope that not only will they be the ultimate beneficiaries of rail, but also that some of them would be employed in one of the myriad jobs and positions related to this project in the future. It was also great to see their teachers just as excited as the students were as they took numerous selfies and photos to commemorate the occasion.

At the Saturday festivities, dubbed Train Community Days in the neighborhood, I joined in with the excited crowd, which had an opportunity to see and touch for themselves what’s in store come rail’s debut of planned service in 2021.

 robins and his hardworking team are off to an impressive start, and are instilling confidence in the public that the days of construction delays and broken promises regarding the project may soon be over.

It was evident that day, judging from their comments and actions, that people are tired of the delays and indecisiveness by city officials over the project. They want to ride and are enamored with Robbins’ goal of weekend interim service between Kapolei and Aloha Stadium in the midst of UH’s football season in October as a prelude to regular weekday service in 2021.

There will be more of these Train Community Days in the weeks to come as more stations are completed, the trains continue their test-runs on the elevated tracks and the system continues its inexorable reach toward Ala Moana Center. I encourage one and all to participate in these events to see what’s in store.

Hello, Tourism Day

Tourism Day will be held this Friday, Feb. 21, at the state Capitol. This event, the fifth for Hawai’i Lodging & Tourism Association, gives our members an opportunity to meet with our senators and representatives in an informal setting. This year promises to be our best one yet because in the spirit of collaboration that has been our hallmark, HLTA will be joined by Hawai’i Tourism Authority and Hawai’i Visitors and Convention Bureau to sponsor the show.

As part of the event, a number of our tourism member-businesses will have exhibits to explain to legislators and others what they do. We’ll have a greater number of them than ever before from hotels, food and product vendors, festivals, attractions, airlines educational institutions and other enterprises that reflect the breadth of the hospitality and travel industries.

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