

Something to "Quack" About

"Traffic is backed up on the H-1 and H-2 merge down to Makakilo".

- KSSK Traffic Reporter

This is a daily occurrence for citizens who live on the west side of Oahu. The reason why there is so much traffic in both the morning and afternoon is because there are many people living on the west side who are trying to get to and from their destination in downtown. According to an article in the *Honolulu Magazine* published in August 2015, Honolulu usually ranks in the top three "worst traffic in the USA" lists. To support that claim, the traffic aggregator INRIX reported that Hawaii residents spend an extra 60.8 hours a year on the road. This definitely does not include residents on the west side of the island. West Oahu residents routinely experience traffic backups in excess of an hour and the further west you go, two hours commutes can be common. As more residential developments are approved for the west side and consumer preference to drive alone continues, there is no end in sight for morning and afternoon commutes. Although the rail project will help to alleviate some of the traffic gridlock along the H-1, my solution is intended to supplement the rail and to service west Oahu communities that are located beyond the last rail station in Kapolei. The name of my solution is Koloa, which is "duck" in Hawaiian, an appropriate name for an amphibious bus-boat.

The Koloa bus-boat looks like our air-conditioned city buses but is able to travel on land and in water. People will walk to "duck" stops in their neighborhoods, so there will be no need for cars. Residents will have the opportunity to interact with each other and experience the community vibe while waiting for the "duck." The Koloa would have

routes in neighborhoods similar to the city bus, but instead of getting on the freeway packed with cars, it will head to either the Ko Olina Marina or the Waianae Boat Harbor and set off to Honolulu Harbor. When it arrives in town, the Koloa will come out of the water and transform back into a bus. Passengers can continue to their destinations without having to wait, transfer, or look for another means of transportation. After the Koloa reaches its last stop on its route, it will make its way back to the West Side. The rail, on the other hand, will require residents to drive to one of the rail stations, which would make drivers have to commute in the morning. In addition to that, people may still have to catch or wait for another means of transportation to get from the rail station to their destination. This is how the Koloa will reduce the amount of cars on the road and provide an alternative to West Oahu residents other than driving or the rail.

Without other transportation alternatives, our traffic is heading toward gridlock. Try to imagine this 50 years from now. With more people coming to Hawaii, more housing developments in West Oahu, as well as more residents commuting, whether it be a necessity or personal desire, the volume of traffic will keep escalating. The 2012 census indicated that there was an estimated 953,207 people who live on Oahu, a large part of whom are trying to get to work in the morning. If people continue to drive, the freeway is going to look like the Ala Moana mall parking lot during the holiday season—total gridlock. Unhappy drivers will have less of our trademark "aloha spirit" as they are sitting in this traffic.

The Koloa can help reduce traffic congestion by providing a relaxing alternative for west side passengers by taking a detour via water to avoid the morning traffic. The Koloa is feasible, as a similar concept is already operational, known as the "Hawaii

Duck Tours" in Honolulu. The only thing different about my solution and the "Hawaii Duck Tours" vehicle is that I propose that the Koloa will operate using an enclosed bus type of vehicle to prevent passengers from getting wet when traveling in the water. A transportation system similar to the Koloa is already operating in the Netherlands.

Clarence T.C. Ching was described as a very caring and successful individual whose generosity had no boundaries. One of his visions in life was to help the people in Hawaii who were less fortunate and had a harder time in life. Another vision he had while he was alive was to make Hawaii a better place for all who live here. He proved to people that with hard work and determination, you can achieve any dream you may have.

The theme for my entry is "Something to Quack About." The theme is based on publicizing my proposed solution of creating an amphibious bus for the public who live on the west side of Oahu and do not have a rail station nearby. One of Honolulu's goals is to cut down the amount of traffic on the road, and with hard work plus my solution, we can reach this goal. Clarence T.C. Ching wanted to help improve the lives of Hawaii's people. Traffic reduction can reduce stress and allow some of the working people more time to spend with their families instead of sitting in traffic. I believe that Clarence T.C. Ching would be supportive of my solution to ease traffic in Honolulu and improve the lives of the people.