

## Don't make taxpayers pay for private roads

Residential owners using private roads should have no expectation of public services to maintain those roads for any reason ("Administrative frosty on new roads law," Star-Advertiser, Dec. 23).

Single-family residence owners in condominium regime share ownership of their private roads, which are common property.

Hawaii law requires those owners pay into reserves for maintenance of common areas. Any such properties requesting public maintenance of their private roads should be reported to the agency enforcing condominium law. That agency should investigate whether those single-family residences have been paying into their condominium reserves for road maintenance.

Does the new law have the potential for lawsuits against the city for failure to budget for these potentially thousands of cases?

Ronald Wong  
Salt Lake

## Best option for rail is to stop building it

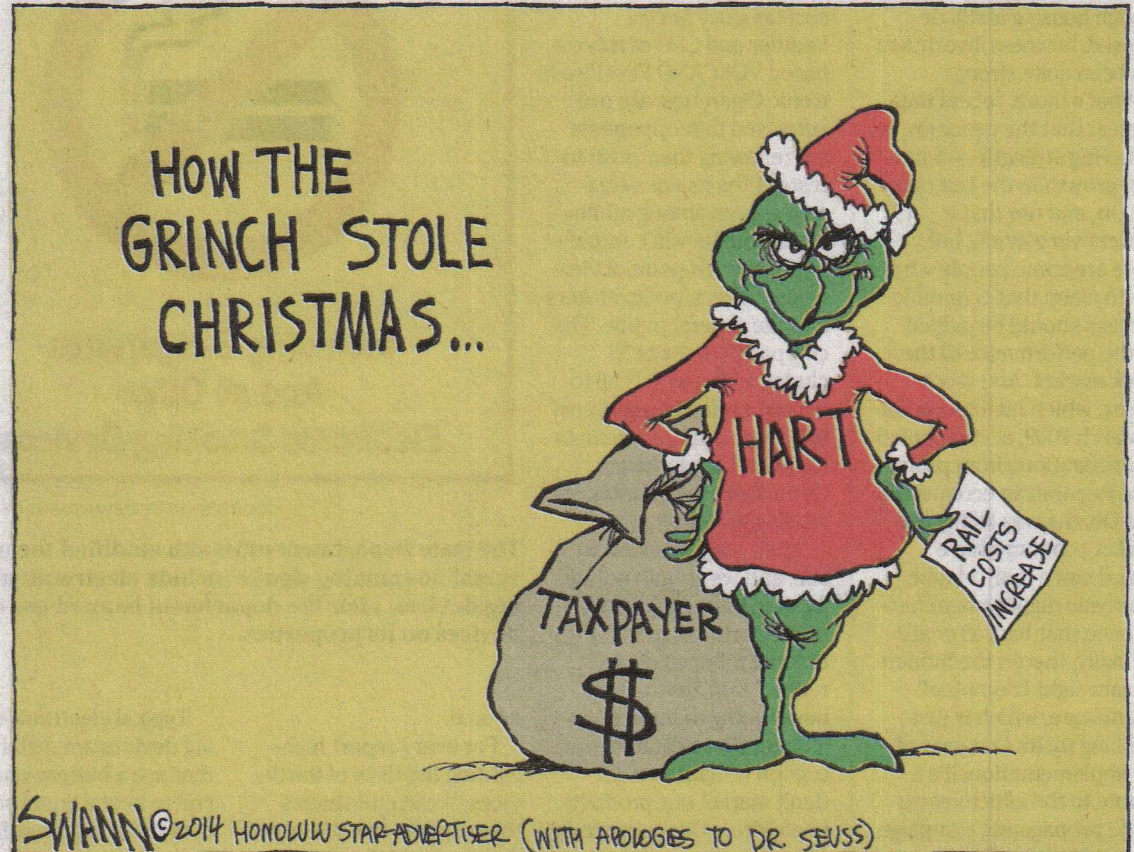
The editorial, "More details needed about rail options" (Star-Advertiser, Our View, Dec. 21) glosses over the most obvious answer to the ever-increasing costs of rail: stop it now.

Now we know it will not be on time or on budget. We also know for sure that, based on the last few years, costs will continually balloon. We've spent down the \$1 billion contingency fund. We're now planning on going into funds we don't have yet, and we still don't know the cost for the other 40 percent to be contracted out. What more do we need to know before we pull the plug? It will not help Leeward traffic, which is almost at a standstill every working day. When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Pam Smith  
Ewa Beach

## Sale of HEI to NextEra comes with questions

As a customer, a rooftop photovoltaic owner and stockholder, I have some questions about the takeover of Hawaiian Electric Indus-



tries by NextEra:

>> How many HEI employees will be terminated after the two-year hiatus by this self-proclaimed strong corporate citizen?

>> How much work will be provided to local contractors for large-scale photovoltaic systems and wind farms?

>> What will owners of rooftop photovoltaic systems be charged for months in which they generate more electricity than they use? The current billing is \$17.

>> When HEI was a \$25 stock, it paid a dividend of almost 5 percent. What dividend rate will NextEra pay?

>> The HEI dividend reinvestment plan allows purchase of stock at very low fees. How good is the NextEra dividend reinvestment plan?

Frankly, if I was an HEI employee I would be looking elsewhere. I hear that Pearl Harbor is hiring.

John Priolo  
Pearl City

## Stop treating pot like a Schedule I drug

In regards to your editorial on medical marijuana dispensaries ("Medical marijuana too hard to obtain," Star-Advertiser, Our View, Dec. 23): Please note that prescriptions for marijuana cannot be written in

any state, even those with a medical marijuana program.

This would require that a Food and Drug Administration-approved marijuana botanical drug product be available in pharmacies, which can never happen in the United States while the Drug Enforcement Administration holds marijuana hostage on the federal Schedule I controlled substances list, believing that it still has no accepted medical use.

Currently, physicians are simply certifying that patients meet certain eligibility criteria set by the state and advising on the safe medical

use of marijuana. States hold the authority to accept the medical use of marijuana, which is why Hawaii was able to create its medical marijuana program in the first place.

Now the state needs to take the next step, which is to make the DEA recognize that marijuana already has accepted medical use and must be rescheduled. Fix this administrative error first, and the rest will follow.

Clifton Otto, M.D.  
Hawaii Kai

## Let's hope cycle track is just the beginning

As a proud member of our island home, I am compelled to voice my opinion on the new King Street Cycle Track.

I drive a car, I am a pedestrian and I am a cyclist. I access the streets of Oahu by these means, and I demand equality. Not for just myself but for all citizens in the entire state of Hawaii.

We all deserve safe and equal access to the streets of our islands.

It is my hope that the King Street Cycle Track is just the beginning toward making our streets accessible to our ohana.

Sharleen Andrade  
Aiea

### EXPRESS YOURSELF

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