

To: Honorable Representative Karamatsu

Date: Tuesday February 10, 2009

Time: 2:00PM

LATE  
Testimony

Kerena Vegas  
P. O. Box 4521  
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

Re: Support House Bill 1713, Relating to Hazards

Aloha,

My family is suffering from hazards and devastations due to the inaction of private owners. We have been devastated with floods multiple times due to the neglect and uncaring for basic human rights. Our quality of life is lost. Our right to live life without the fear and threat of hazards as we are suffering from due to the inaction of private landowners is no longer. Such hazards as:

- 1) No outlet and drainage for gushing water and streams from private land,
- 2) Overflowing and blocked coverts,
- 3) Falling branches and trees that are one hundred years old and beyond any homeowner's reach to cut back to protect themselves unless they hire professionals costing them thousands of dollars,
- 4) Falling coconuts etc.

This is due to the inactivity and the "wait and see if someone complains or call" kind of attitude. Even when a life is taken as our dear friend and former homeowner was harassed, threatened and intimidated. His basic human right to enjoy life was severed. Tried as he did to bring the problem of hazards to the private landowner only resulted in depression and finally he could no longer handle and committed suicide. There is no recourse for the common citizen, homeowner or resident to deal with other than give up, continue to suffer, become traumatized beyond repair and depression as we are, or suicidal.