

LATE

TO: The Honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto, (CHAIR)
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, (VICE CHAIR)
and Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Friday, April 24, 2009
9:05 a.m. Room 329

RE: HCR-63 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE THE KUKUI GARDENS
AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT IN THE STATE LIST OF
SHOVEL-READY PROJECTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN.

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Fetu Kolio, and I am a community resident of Kalihi-Palama and a resident of Public Housing, at MAYOR WRIGHT HOUSING; I also serve as a Member of the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No.#15 and a strong community participant of the Weed & Seed program in my community. I am testifying today in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR-63.

HCR-63 would help stop KUKUI GARDENS from being torn down for-profit for corporation, and to be replaced with market-rate housing. On December 2007, a compromise was reached and that half of KUKUI GARDENS to be preserve for low-income housing, and that Hawaii lacks affordable housing, more then half of all renters in households across the State of Hawaii cannot afford Hawaii's fair market rental rates.

The economic crisis has made it very difficult to find investors to fund the purchase of KUKUI GARDENS, or alternative sources of funding to secured the needed rehabilitation and the addition of more affordable units may not be possible.

Please help pass this resolution HCR-63 and thank you for letting me testify.

Fetu T. Kolio
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