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To: Representative Rida Cabanilla

Committee on Housing

March 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

From: Rev Alan Mark, State President of FACE

Re: Testimony on HCR 63

Chairperson Cabanilla and members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Mark, I'm the senior pastor of the Kilohana United Methodist Church in Niu Valley and the State President of FACE – Faith in Action for Community Equity. I speak for our state organization that includes FACE Maui. We will have 50 churches, temples, associations, and organizations island wide. Out of our many faith traditions we have banded together to promote social justice, promote equity and to better the quality of life for our people here in these islands.

On behalf of FACE and Kukui Garden's resident association, who are members of FACE, I am here to support the Senate resolution in urging the governor to include the Kukui Gardens Affordable Housing Project in the State's projects from the Stimulus Plan. We have worked too hard and have come too far in our preservation battle to keep Kukui Garden affordable and from displacing of 800 families.

Through the efforts of Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and the Senate along with Speaker Calvin Say and the House we were able to purchase the land with the of 52 million dollars to save half the property. With EAH Ecumenical Association for Housing plans were in place to build additional units to accommodate the rest of the residents to replace units owned by Carmel Partners until the economic downturn affected our financing.

With the threat of Kukui Gardens going market- rate, FACE and the residents again went to work on securing funding for development from our major banks. Also we went back to President Hanabusa, Speaker Say and our congressional representatives to encourage Senator Inouye to put Kukui Gardens in the state's list of shovel-ready projects in the stimulus package. We went as far as going to Washington DC to plea our cause.

We trust with your support we can reassure the residents once again that they will not be displaced and will have affordable homes in the future.

We thank you for all your work in support of Kukui Garden in the past and your continued support with this resolution.

Thank you for your support.



**HCR 63 Urging the Governor to Include the Kukui Gardens
Affordable Housing Project in the State's List of Shovel-Ready
Projects for the President's Proposed Economic Stimulus Plan.**

House Committee on Housing

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Room

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HCR 63.

The growing affordable housing problem is one of the most critical issues faced by our communities, especially our Native Hawaiian communities. This issue seems to have many of our families struggling to find adequate housing and to make ends meet.

The continued increased pressure on government to provide financing assistance and reduce government barriers for the development of affordable housing has not ceased. The demand for affordable housing has not ceased. The partnerships created by government with non profit and for profit developers to keep our affordable housing inventory in a position to meet the demand reasonably need to address the "how to" versus "we cannot do it". Kukui Gardens with its non profit and government units is a very viable project to stimulate the economy and meet our State's affordable housing needs with a "we can do it."

We recognize that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony and request your support.