

# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** [Jun Yang](#)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SCR 39 Testimony - Winona Sardinha  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2009 11:04:31 AM

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This testimony was sent on behalf of Winona Sardinha.

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2009  
TIME: 1:15 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 39

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.

Good afternoon Senator Sakamoto and the committee on Education and Housing:

My name is Winona Sardinha. I am a long time resident of Kukui Gardens, and a leader in FACE, Faith Action for Community Equity.

I have lived in Kukui Gardens since 1970, when the development first opened, and have raised 5 lovely boys. It has not been easy, but it has been a fruitful time. One of my sons is developmentally challenged, and the community at Kukui Gardens has been a safe and loving place for him to grow up in. It is because of him that I joined in this fight to save our homes. He has been one of the strongest leaders in Kukui Gardens and has been at almost every event that we have had. If you saw him, you would see how much he loves this place.

Kukui Gardens has been ready and waiting for the redevelopment that it was promised. All plans were in place to begin, but the financial problems in New York and across the globe stopped everything. Now we are in a place where we do not know what our future will bring. We were ready to break ground, and had plans to begin the redevelopment process early this year. But now we need your help to be place on the governor's list.

I ask you today to help us in saving our home. We have fought so hard up until now. It would be a disgrace to us all if Kukui Gardens did not survive because of these economic hard times.

Senators, please urge the governor to place Kukui Gardens on the list of shovel ready projects. Kukui Gardens is ready to be redeveloped. We need your support.

Thank you.

EDHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chairperson**  
Committee on Education and Housing

March 16, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

From: Rev Alan Mark, State President of FACE

**Re: Testimony on SCR 39**

**Chairperson Sakamoto 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 Action for Community Equity. I speak for our state organization that includes FACE Maui. We have 50 churches, temples, associations, and organizations island wide. Out of our many faith traditions we have banded together to promote social justice and equity and to better the quality of life for our people here in these islands.

On behalf of FACE and the Kukui Gardens Resident Association, who are members of FACE, I am here to support the Senate resolution 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 Gardens affordable and from the displacement 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 have the State purchase the land for 52 million dollars to save half the property. With FACE member EAH (Ecumenical Association for Housing), plans were in place to build additional units to accommodate residents in units owned by Carmel Partners until the recent economic downturn affected our financing.

With the threat of Kukui Gardens going market-rate, FACE and the residents again went to work trying to secure funding for development from our major banks. Once again we went back to leaders of our state House and Senate and to our Congressional representatives to encourage Senator Inouye to put Kukui Gardens on the state's list of shovel-ready projects in the stimulus package. We went as far as going to Washington, DC, to plead our cause.

We trust that with your support again, we can assure the residents of Kukui Gardens 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 Gardens in the past and for your continued support.