

Faith Action for Community Equity, FACE Oahu Testimony on SB2633
Senate Education & Housing Committee, February 10, 1:20 p.m., Rm. 225

Senator Sakamoto and members of the Senate Education & Housing Committee;

Thank you for letting me testify on SB2633 Relating to Housing.

My name is Patrick Zukemura and I am the lead organizer for FACE-Oahu.

I have not had a chance to carefully read this bill, but was asked this morning by our sister organization on Maui to testify.

We would like to point out a couple of things we feel is wrong about this bill:

1. It takes away from the counties their authority to do any type of urban planning. We question whether this is good at this time when we need more thoughtful planning to prevent urban sprawl and harm to our environment.
2. This is said to be a economic stimulus. We think developers just want to make more money and not build affordable housing.

The City & County of Honolulu placed a moratorium on requiring developers to build 30% of their units for affordable housing and this is why we have a problem now in Honolulu.

We think developers do make money building affordable housing and they do not need to make any more money by building housing for rich people who do not live in Hawaii. We need affordable housing for our local working folks now.

On a personal note. I have two young adult daughters who have been working for several years after college and the Army. They cannot afford to purchase a home least rent one because the cost are just too high.

SB2633 is a slap on building more affordable housing for the people of Hawaii. The organizations in FACE-Oahu, churches, temple, synagogue and civic organizations, are very much concerned for our homeless and this bill will just aggravate the situation.

We need more affordable rentals and ownership and FACE-Oahu speaks against the intent of SB2633.