

TESTIMONY
SCR 92

Senate Concurrent Resolution 92
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and
Committee on Education and Housing
Wednesday, March 10 at 1:25 pm
Conference Room 225

March 9, 2010

The Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair and
Members of the Committee on Education and Housing

The Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair and
Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SCR 92: Requesting a Report to the Legislature Reviewing Workforce
Housing in Kaka`ako Mauka

I am in support of SCR 92. I am a small landowner in Kakaako and believe that additional studies on housing need to be addressed in the area before sweeping legislation is enacted that will be counter-productive to, not only the workforce housing market, but also the overall market conditions in Kakaako.

I believe that one of the objectives is to achieve sustainable growth in the housing market on Oahu, in particular, the urban core. Because there are currently bills in play that attempts to address this need, it would be prudent to conduct a study *first* to analyze the market.

SCR 92 will provide information that will uncover any weaknesses or strengths in current regulations and this study will serve as a guide in planning Kakaako's housing future.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Kaneshiro
(Kakaako Landowner & Member, Kakaako Community Alliance)
845 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

March 10, 2010, Committee Hearing
Conference Room 225
1:25PM

SCR92

HCDA; Workforce Housing: Report to Legislature

Chair Hee, Chair Sakamoto and Committee Members:

I am in support of SCR92.

I am Dexter Okada. As a disclosure, I am a member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority. But I am submitting testimony as the president of U. Okada & Co., Ltd., a third generation small family business and property owner that has been located on Queen Street in Kaka'ako for over fifty years. I am also representing the Kaka'ako Business and Landowners Association, a group of small businesses and small landowners. I am also a member of the Kaka'ako Community Alliance.

Asking Hawaii Community Development Authority(HCDA) to review the status and adequacy of existing workforce housing in the Kaka'ako Mauka area is a good step to do before entertaining any bill that arbitrarily increases the mandate for reserved housing in the Kaka'ako community.

To get an accurate view of the situation in Kaka'ako Mauka, SCR92 should include in the review process with HCDA, representatives from the community of small and large businesses and landowners in Kaka'ako Mauka.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dexter Okada
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The Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair and members - The
Committee on Education and Housing

The Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair and members - The
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SCR 92, Requesting a Report to the Legislature reviewing
workforce housing in Kaka`ako mauka.

Aloha:

My name is John Covington and I am a member of the Kaka`ako
Community Alliance. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in
support of SCR 92, which asks the Hawai`i Community Development
Authority to conduct an in-depth review of various facets of
workforce housing in Kaka`ako. Such a study makes excellent
sense. A bill that would dramatically increase the Reserved
Housing exaction on Kaka`ako landowners has been approved in the
House; it is prudent to assess the demand for a mix of housing
in Kaka`ako prior to enacting such a sweeping exaction.
I would like to suggest that KCA be allowed to name a
representative to assist with this study. In light of the
attempts to increase exactions on Kaka`ako landowners, it is
only fair that any study performed be overseen by the relevant
stakeholders.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

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To	Senate Sergeant-	From	John Covington		
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