

**LATE Testimony of Robert Loy
Director of Environmental Programs
The Outdoor Circle**

**HB 429
Committee on Water and Land
February 4, 2013
10:50 AM
Room 325**

The Outdoor Circle strongly supports HB 429.

This bill will require legislative approval for any amendment or exceptions to the Mauka Area and/or Makai Area plans for Kaka`ako, adopted by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

It is well known that the HCDA plans to attempt to amend the Mauka Area rules to change the maximum building height limits to accommodate the construction of a 650 foot residential tower called 690 Pohukaina. This would be accomplished by promulgating something called a “Transit Oriented Development Overlay” that would create new rules that supercede existing rules. If this TOD Overlay is allowed it will not only open the door to one structure some 200 feet taller than any building in Hawaii, but it will enable additional, excessively tall buildings to be built in Kaka`ako as well.

We believe the height limit already approved for Kaka`ako will better protect the view planes of tens of thousands of Honolulu residents.

HB 429 will give the legislature the final say about whether this change is good for Hawaii. It also provides for final legislative approval for all efforts to change rules for development in Kaka`ako that have been established through a public participation process by the HCDA.

We urge you to pass HB 429.