

June 3, 2015

Testimony to Honolulu City Council

From: Karen Ginoza, FACE Oahu President

Subject: Support for Bill 13, CD2, Proposed FD1

Chair Ernest Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 13, CD2, Proposed FD1. **FACE**, *Faith Action for Community Equity*, is a faith-based community organizing group whose mission is to give a voice to the underserved who don't know they have a voice.

There is an urgent need to provide homes for people "living under the stars." Current laws increases the problems for our communities because the enforcement of the laws just pushes people from one community to another. After 3 months of living under the stars, a homeless person cannot function like a normal person. Imagine what happens to a child who is homeless. He/she is not able to learn in school. We must find ways to help people find housing and get off the streets.

We thank the council for adding \$64 mil for housing. However, having the funds will not increase the housing inventory. People are needed to plan, administer, and execute the actual projects. Bill 13, CD2, Proposed FD1 will add positions to administer the \$64 million allocated to housing. The units being planned for Sand Island and Chinatown are examples of what can be accomplished if positions and funds are allocated for housing.

We implore the Council to add contract positions for the Office of Strategic Development. Thank you for this opportunity to testify

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