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Item # 8
Bill 20 (2015)

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Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

July 21, 2015

Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony: Bill 20 – LUO AMENDMENT RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS.

Dear Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee on Zoning and Planning:

UNITE HERE, Local 5 represents over 11,000 workers in the hotel, restaurant and health care industries in Hawaii.

We **support with reservation** Bill 20 (2015), which would amend the LUO to allow the creation of accessory dwelling units. The Union agrees that ADUs may generate more housing for local residents and it is a start in addressing the housing crisis if used for its intended purpose.

We believe this bill could benefit many in our communities. It provides more housing inventory and is a viable solution for the following:

The multigenerational household, common in Hawaii, would benefit by having space and privacy.

The working poor unable to afford high rent would have more options available to them.

The “house poor” homeowner would be able to generate the additional income needed to keep their home.

The elderly who want to age in place are able to do so safely, with dignity and with less disruption to lifestyle for all involved.

Finally, the “hidden homeless” population could have a space of their own with homeowners already willing to provide some assistance.

That being said, we are concerned that although there are provisions requiring ADUs be for long-term rental only, it may add to the problem of illegal transient vacation units and bed and breakfast in our neighborhoods. Many with additional rooms and homes are using them as illegal short-term rentals.

We strongly urge this council to address enforcement issues regarding the proliferation of TVUs and BnBs in conjunction to moving this bill forward.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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