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RECEIVED P9, Bill 20, CD1
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C & C OF HONOLULU

TO: Chair Ernest Martin and
Members of the City Council of Honolulu
2015 SEP -1 AM 7:51

FROM: Rev. Bob Nakata, Co-Chair
FACE Housing Task Force

RE: Bill 20, CD1, Concerning Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

HEARING: September 2, 2015

Dear Chair Martin and Members of the City Council of Honolulu:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in strong support of Bill 20. This bill, if passed, will be a big step forward in meeting the need for tens of thousands of affordable housing units in our City. The need for these units has been identified in many studies going back many years. It is acknowledged by almost everyone as the basic problem that must be solved if we are to solve the severe crisis in homelessness that is overwhelming us.

While the Governor's leadership team is slowly beginning to address the pressing need to shelter the homeless, we have been even slower to address the longer-range need for production of affordable rental housing. This bill will speed up that progress. It will allow citizens of Honolulu to add to the stock of affordable rental units to help themselves, their families, and neighbors meet a critical need and help them economically. Financial institutions should be ready to assist with loans. Churches and other civic organizations could encourage their members to seek and encourage people to build ADUs. While not a panacea, ADUs could help alleviate the crisis. They could help bring in more hands-on-deck to make our city more livable.

We urge you to pass Bill 20 immediately and urge the Administration to implement it.