

Testimony of Anné Au, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Hawaiian Studies Major

Before the Honolulu City Council members

July 12, 2017, 6:59AM

In support of **Bill 58 CD1**

2017 JUL 12 AM 7:32
C & S
K
HONOLULU

Aloha mai Honolulu City Council Members. My name is Anné Au and I am testifying on behalf of the people of Hawai'i needing affordable housing in **support of Bill 51 CD1** relating to developers being accountable to develop affordable housing for residents in Hawai'i.

The way of life for Kānaka 'Ōiwi, Native Hawaiians is to practice our culture through aloha 'āina, love for the land. The practice of aloha 'āina has a deep and rooted history within Kānaka 'Ōiwi, and is the connection of relationships with our 'āina, kupuna, and akua. It is our kuleana to nurture, and protect our natural resources, sovereign rights, and honoring of the gods who represent our natural resources. Aloha 'āina is a Native Hawaiian practice of a mindful, and harmonious existence; by taking the necessities, and protecting and nurturing the resources needed for later. It is what George Helm referred to as “ the soul of my kupuna,” the spirit of our ancestors, and Kānaka 'Ōiwi's duty to represent our kupuna in the best possible way we can.

O'ahu's development MUST address the needs of local taxpayers and residents, not mainland corporations and developers. O'ahu is gentrifying as investors seek to redevelop lands around the rail as well as older communities. Most locals cannot afford what we are calling 'affordable' because we have set our standards way too high. We need to make sure that developers better serve our taxpayers' housing needs, and that what is considered 'affordable' is low enough to be affordable to residents. We cannot afford on our island to create new dense

hotel projects and retail and shopping malls that are not for our island residents and are housing projects so luxurious that we cannot afford. Native Hawaiian, immigrant families with children are not served or housed in tiny small condo studios that have massive swimming pools, restaurants and movie complexes but are unaffordable.

Bill 58 CD1 should require at least 30% affordable housing for all projects.

For decades, developers in Honolulu and throughout Hawai'i who received higher land values and development benefits through a zone change have been required to ensure that 30% of their units are affordable. All other counties already have similar requirements for all developments. Through the rail, developers will receive all the benefits of a zone change, under a streamlined permitting process. We can and should ask for **at least** the same level of affordable housing requirement.

Bill 58 CD1 should have truly affordable housing requirements.

Bill 58 CD1 is targeting families making way too much. Women, immigrant, and Native Hawaiians make much less than the median income. Affordable Housing must be truly affordable to those who survive on minimum wage and lower paying jobs.

I am in support of **Bill 58 CD1**, and a responsibility to continue to malama the O'ahu in the best interest of all parties. Mahalo for the opportunity to contribute my testimony.