



TESTIMONY TO CITY COUNCIL
City and County of Honolulu

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TESTIMONY ON BILL 10, CD 1 & CD 2: RELATING TO TRANSIT ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Audrey Suga-Nakagawa
Staff Member,
AARP Hawaii

AARP Hawaii, which represents a statewide membership of 156,000 adults over the age of 50, is pleased to offer the following comments on Bill 10, CD1 and CD 2, Relating to Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

We support a strong community-based planning process that is inclusive and addresses the unique characteristics, resources and needs of the surrounding vicinity of each transit station.

We believe there is a greater chance for successful public support if the communities can be involved in the early planning and design stages of the development and redevelopment projects that will reflect their needs and priorities. The Waipahu community, for example, has been very successful up to now of having an inclusive public process relating to TOD. We hope to see this process continued at the same level for each station area.

We support CD2's amendment to have the plan be consistent with "sustainable communities plan" in addition to the applicable regional development.

AARP

TOD- May 14, 2008

If hotels are permitted, as provided in CD2, at a minimum they should participate in the same public process as other development proposals being considered in the TOD.

We support the simplified process in CD 2 of finding no further action by the Council necessary once the neighborhood plan has been already adopted, provided that the plan is not revised substantially.

We have a concern regarding the provision that allows the Council to establish a special district on or after January 1, 2011, where no neighborhood plan has been adopted. While we would be pleased to see plans adopted by the 2011 date and favor an expedited timeline, we would not be in favor of this occurring at the expense of having the public process bypassed. There should be provision allowing for an extension if there is a reasonable justification for the delay.

Finally, to build livable healthy communities where we can all age-in-place, we ask that TODs include housing that span across a wide range of incomes and include an intergenerational mix of residents, with the understanding that housing will not be mandated in areas where it is inappropriate.

We also ask that the concept of *Complete Street* design provisions be incorporated to the fullest extent possible to ensure safe, accessible, convenient travel by users of all ages and abilities and that pedestrian and bicyclist interests are valued equally with vehicular transportation, and that appropriate designs that feature open space, community hubs, and mixed-use zoning to attain a desirable mix of commercial, cultural educational, governmental and community services and activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.