

LATE

Rona M. Suzuki
1421 Hiikala Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: HCR 161, Proposed HDI - Requesting Castle & Cooke Hawaii, Inc to release land designated for the operational development of the Oahu Arts Center (OAC) Hearing at the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology on Friday, April 15, 2010, 1:30 pm, Room 423

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members:

I am in strong support of HCR 161, Proposed HD1, which requests Castle & Cooke Hawaii, Inc. to release the land designated for the operational development of the OAC.

A strong community needs the arts. Youth need a venue to develop their creative talents as much as they need a baseball or soccer field to develop their athletic skill. Central Oahu desperately needs a venue for its growing community to experience and practice the arts. A school cafeteria does not provide an appropriate venue for this.

A commitment was made to the Central Oahu community to provide a facility for the arts in Mililani. This commitment needs to be fulfilled.

Please show your support for arts for Central Oahu community by passing HCR 161, proposed HD1.

Very truly yours,

Rona M. Suzuki

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: Michelle Aczon [AczonNotes@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 6:36 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR161 HD1

LATE

This testimony is in support of RESOLUTION HCR161 HD1

Everyday studies are being done proving how the arts benefit and enrich our lives, yet everyday the arts are continually being cut into virtual non-existence. The arts teach us how to learn, give us passion and curiosity, teach us how to play well with others and exercises the right brain, all of which are vital skills to our past, present and future existence. What a disservice we are doing to our youth, our society and our own lives, by not promoting the arts. Even in the concentration camps of WWII people still wrote music, poetry, created art, and in many cases these skills were essential to their survival, even though they were without basic necessities and human dignity.

So I ask you, why is this element always being considered such a luxury? Building an Arts Center in Central Oahu is not a frill; it is a much needed venue that will only benefit all of Hawaii, especially its youth. Not every child is a soccer star or a scholar, but everyone is entitled to have their lives have purpose, which is so apparently seen in students when they become involved in choirs, bands and theatre groups. The arts have sorely been missing from this part of the island and it needs to be implemented. It is part of survival, a part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. It is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning."

Human beings are works of art and when we support the arts, we secure our existence and when we don't it's like telling us we are not important. Please help us tell our youth that they are important by supporting an Arts Center in Central Oahu by supporting Resolution HCR161 HD1

Michelle Aczon
94-403 Punono Street
Mililani, HI 96789
808 623-8334
aczonnotes@hawaii.rr.com

From: Melissa Vomvoris [melissavomvoris@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 7:41 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: Testimony on HCR161

LATE

Testimony of Melissa Vomvoris
Resident of Mililani
before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
on

HCR161 HD1: REQUESTING CASTLE & COOKE HAWAII, INC. TO WORK WITH THE OAHU ARTS CENTER AND THE COMMUNITY TO SECURE AN APPROPRIATE SITE FOR AN ARTS CENTER

April 16, 2010

Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

I am in strong support of HCR161 Requesting Castle & Cooke Hawaii, Inc. to release land designated for the operational development of the Oahu Arts Center.

Central Oahu is a large and continually growing community with the new development of Koa Ridge that Castle & Cooke Homes of Hawaii will be developing in the very near future.

Mililani is well known for its "All American City" title due to Castle and Cooke's innovative planned community design. In developing Mililani Mauka, Castle & Cooke designated 3 acres of commercial land to the community for the Oahu Arts Center to build a first class arts education center and performing arts theater.

As the Oahu Arts Center raised funds for business plans, feasibility studies, and conceptual designs, Castle and Cooke sold homes to Mauka residents under the premise that an Art Center would be built in the community. Once the development was complete Castle & Cooke withdrew its plan to dedicate the land to the community and the Oahu Arts Center.

As a resident of Mililani for over 20 years, I strongly support this resolution. An arts education center located in Central Oahu would serve many needs that are lacking in our education system today.

"My husband and I believe strongly that arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation's leaders for tomorrow. It's our hope that we can all work together to expose, enrich and empower Americans of all ages through the arts." --First Lady Michelle Obama

Thank You,
Melissa Vomvoris
Mililani Resident

LATE

April 15, 2010

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Committee Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga & Members of Committee

HCR 161, HD1

**REQUESTING CASTLE & COOKE HAWAII, INC. TO
WORK WITH THE OAHU ARTS CENTER AND THE
COMMUNITY TO SECURE AN APPROPRIATE SITE
FOR AN ARTS CENTER.**

I urge you to approve this resolution

Central Oahu needs the Oahu Arts Center Facility, and the parking facility.

I have been a resident homeowner in Mililani since 1971. There has never been any facility where residents can have a venue for the performing arts. Additionally, the facility would be available for schools and other organizations to rent space to practice their arts on a regular basis. The Central Oahu area is in short supply of affordable space to practice, and teach the arts.

I believe the facility will be well-used and self-sustaining. Many Central/North Shore/Leeward Oahu organizations will be able to use such a facility in their own area, without having to travel into other areas such as downtown Honolulu to find a venue for their events.

The developer Castle & Cook has promised this land to the Central Oahu Community. They even used this in their brochures in their sales office. Now, obviously for its own financial profit, Castle & Cook wants to take back the land which they had previously donated; and sell it to an interested party. This is not in the best interests of the community. We were promised the existing property for the Oahu Arts Center. I find Castle & Cook to be disingenuous in their actions to take away something they have already given to the community.

Castle & Cook has never had the best interests of Mililani residents in mind. This developer is only concerned with how much profit they can make off all their land holdings. They make a lot of promises to lure prospective buyers; and they do not keep all their promises. It is time to hold them accountable and don't let them take back what they already donated to the Oahu Arts Center.

Nicholas Striebich
Martial Arts Teacher
Mililani Resident Homeowner

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: Nia Graffigna [nia294@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 7:47 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: Testimony on HCR161 HD1

LATE

April 16, 2010

Re: Testimony in support of Resolution HCR161 HD1 - REQUESTING CASTLE & COOKE HAWAII, INC. TO WORK WITH THE OAHU ARTS CENTER AND THE COMMUNITY TO SECURE AN APPROPRIATE SITE FOR AN ARTS CENTER.

Dear Chair, Fukunaga and Committee Members:

Hello, my name is Nia Graffigna and I am an 8th grader at Mililani Middle School. I would like to express my strong support for resolution HCR161 HD1. I understand that this resolution will help the Oahu Arts Center secure funding to purchase the land that was once donated and promised to the community by Castle & Cooke.

I remember, on several occasions, going to the Castle & Cooke Sales Center to look at their new home displays and their large scale model of Mililani Mauka Community. The model proudly displayed a marker showing "Future Site of Oahu Arts Center". I never knew how important that was to me until I found out that Castle & Cooke was no longer going to donate the land as it once promised in its display.

You see, I love to act. I have been blessed to perform in 3 different productions that the Oahu Arts Center has produced. Though, we had to find alternative venues to have our musical plays, such as under a tent during one of Hawaii's worst storms in history, where we actually had to cancel the second act because the tent flooded. We had nearly 300 people attend that crazy wet & wild night. However, I knew that it would be all worth it because one day the Oahu Arts Center would be built so we could perform in a real theater.

We need arts! And we need to bring it to Central Oahu! I ask you to please pass this resolution as it serves the people, the community, and all of Hawaii, of which you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nia Graffigna

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:03 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR161 on 4/16/2010 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Testimony for EDT 4/16/2010 1:30:00 PM HCR161

Conference room: 423
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: sue haglund
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/16/2010

Comments:

I stand in strong support to HCR161. Oahu Arts Center allows residents in the leeward, central, and north shore areas access to arts education. OAC is also a venue that allows parents and children to attend activities in their local community given the furlough Fridays arts education cutbacks. Please support the arts and Oahu Arts Center thank you.

LATE

2010 Hawaii State Legislature

Hawaii State Capitol

RE: HCR 161 HD1 (Oahu Arts Center)

Hearing: April 16, 2010

Oral Testimony by Bennette Misalucha Evangelista, Board member, Oahu Arts Center

Committee Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha Evangelista and I have been a member of the Oahu Arts Center's board of directors for at least six years. I speak in favor of the resolution. Throughout my association with this organization, I have always understood that Castle and Cooke had made a promise to OAC that it will donate land for the Center. This land is so critical to the efforts of OAC to raise the necessary monies to build this much needed facility. Without the land, major donors will be reluctant to support and the project will be at a standstill or worst, could not proceed.

I know that over the years, OAC has worked with Castle and Cooke in good faith and has reasonably complied with their requests.

Indisputably, the community needs such a facility. The land was designated for public use, and there was broad community support for the concept, as well as to Castle and Cooke's intentions at the time. At the end of the day, a promise was made to the community of Mililani. We need to ensure that this promise is fulfilled and kept.

Please support the passage of this resolution.

Thank you for your kind consideration.