

## Waena Apartments (Formally Kukui Gardens Makua) 1307 Liliha Road, Unit #105 Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

February 22, 2011

Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, District #28 State Capitol, Room #326 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subj: February 22, 2011 Hearing on Prostitution Bills

Dear Representative Rhoads,

As Property Owners of the Waena Community, formally known as Kukui Gardens Makua, our property is immediately adjacent to the problem areas the Bills being considered today are addressing. Consequently we are keenly aware of the challenges this area produces and are both appreciative and optimistic that these Bills will aid in protecting our Community from at the very least "un-welcome exposure" to crimes in progress and the repercussions of these crimes.

We are in support of these Bills in the hopes of the continuing improvement and evolution of this 'transitional area' into a more friendly family and Civic safe zone;

- HB 44 As we are both close to a school and a park and our Children deserve to be able to travel freely in these areas NOT having to witness criminal activities.
- HB 240 As victims on any level need protected.
- HB 241
- HB 242

We as a local business owner and as members of this Community sincerely thank you for your continued interest of our Waena Community and appreciate your hard work on our behalf.

Best regards,

Tom Tschudin

Development Manager

LATTESTAON





## KUKUI KAUHALE, INC

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Creating community by developing, managing and promoting quality affordable housing since 1968

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Karl Rhoads House of Representatives Hawaii State House 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813



Dear Mr. Rhoads:

## RE: HEARINGS ON PROSTITUTION-RELATED BILLS HB 44, HB 241, AND HB 242

On behalf of the approximate one thousand residents at 35 North Kukui Street, we are writing in support of the above referenced bills.

It is well known that prostitution related crime has long plagued the Chinatown neighborhood. The extent was such that the City designated it as a zone of significant activity, thereby requiring special attention. This prostitution related crime is highly detrimental to the quality of life, health, and safety of our residents.

For example, if choosing to walk across the street to the local Zippy's for supper there's a good chance that our residents must run the gauntlet of transvestite prostitutes. They are hesitant to send their teenager the one short block to Safeway for a quart of milk because female prostitutes flaunt their wares behind Long's Drugs. This is the same route used by our youth to access Central Middle School offering grades six to eight. Children must be carefully monitored when going on a family stroll of the neighborhood for fear of pricking themselves on a discarded needle. Our elderly are only now again beginning to enjoy their evening socializing in front of the building's entry. This was rendered inadvisable when a pimp related murder occurred adjacent to the building. Youth are put at risk by being confronted with a "flashy" alternative life style that offers attractive people, impressive cars, fancy clothes, and fast money.

Kukui Tower participates in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's program referred to as the "Cop-in-the-Neighborhood". It is intended to contribute to the overall safety and security of HUD properties, and in return for a free apartment the property receives thirty-two hours of service of a Honolulu police officer. Part of this service includes routine patrols, and every month the officer's report includes the grim statistics of prostitution related crime on Kukui Street.

Noteworthy in these statistics is the high incidence of "Johns" as compared to female and transvestite prostitutes, drug action, and vehicles engaged in criminal activity. Other jurisdictions have found that targeting "Johns" is the most effective assault on prostitution, including publishing the names and photographs of convicted "Johns" in the local newspaper. This is why we believe bills HB 44 and HB 242 in particular merit your support.





In short, we urge you to give full consideration to the subject bills as measures to curtail Chinatown's prostitution activity, and encourage you to see them though to successful passage. Our residents will be most pleased to learn of your progress in this regard.

Sincerely,

David L. Treusch

**Property Manager** 

Authorized Managing Agent for Kukui Kauhale, Inc.