

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION.

Census tract 57 People's Movement.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND COMMUNITY.

Lower Palama. Between Dillingham Blvd. and King street, bordering between the Kapalama canal and the intersection where King and Dillingham meet. All areas in the Kalihi-Palama area are called census tracts.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE ORGANIZATION.

We have no real membership rule except that one must be a resident of the area. We represent at this time the 8 households of the affected end of Akepo Lane (where the State plans to build its student parking lot) and the 33 families of the Kokea apts.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY. In the whole census tract where we live there are 2,600 people. But since the eviction will come in phases, at this time only affecting the 8 households at the end of Akepo lane and the 33 families at Kokea apts., this is where we are now focusing our efforts.

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY. There are about 900 households (both single and family dwellings) in the whole area.

ORGANIZATION LEADERS OR REPRESENTATIVES:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Donna Kekuma	Kokea Apts.	841-0614
Virginio Demain	Akepo Lane	845-4590
Raymond Catania	Hikina Lane	847-0774

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR STRUGGLE. WHAT KIND, GOALS, HISTORY, WHAT HAS ORGANIZATION DONE.

We started in November of 1973 when we heard the state planned expansion of Honolulu Community College into our community. The school now encompasses 20 acres, but they plan to make it grow by 20 more. All this was being done with none of us being consulted. When a few of us found out the facts we quickly spread it throughout the whole community. The people were angered when they found out that the State was planning to evict them. There are 3 phases. 1. Parking lot at the end of Akepo Lane. This would evict the 8 families and single men that were living there. The tenants did not know that the state had already bought one of the 2 parcels in the area (the Fong parcel). The other one (the Thom parcel) is still trying to be bought by the state. The landlord is holding out yet. Their lawyer has not told us if they will refuse to sell or if they are waiting for a good price.

2. Expansion into the Kokea Apartments area kicking out families who live there, including 3 small businesses. The state has already bought the apartments and has Brilhante Associates, under the front called the "The Real Estate", collecting the rent from it's tenants. With each family that moves out the State refuses to move any one in. The less people they have there the easier it will be to evict the rest. They are also not taking care of the area, making it safer to live. 3. Then the eventual expansion into Hikina Lane up to King street. This can only be done if the residents of Akepo and Kokea are evicted first. Like Chinatown we also face urban renewal, a better term would be "poor people removal". Since our area is zoned light industrial we have both ^{small} industry and residential cramped together. Both the ^{(old City & county zoning codes).} end of Akepo lane and the Kokea apts. have been zoned apartment. This means that expansion can come through there. But we are trying to prevent this from happening.

Our goal is to:

1. get the state ^{to} recognize the People's Movement. Give us decision making power in the college's expansion.
2. get the school to seek an alternative expansion. Instead of coming into the community they can go highrise or develop elsewhere on the campus. They can try to get the Kapalama incinerator from the City and build the parking lot there. We are willing to sit down with them and plan this. We are not against education, but if the school really wants to be responsible to the community it must have the community helping to plan it's expansion so that no one gets evicted. We are refusing to move. Many of us have lived here for years. It is near our work, families, churches, bus-lines etc. The state wants us to move but they have not come up with any relocation plan.
3. Instead of the state building a parking lot on Akepo lane they can build housing for the Akepo lane people instead.
4. Open up the vacant apartments in Kokea to needy families who need them and repair the area making it safe to live in.

At this time we have stalled the expansion. This was done because the community was organized as a powerful force. If the community did not stand up the residents of Akepo lane would have been evicted already. This was accomplished by us calling two Public Hearings in the community. Since then we have talked to the officials in the state's community college system and to Ariyoshi, ~~also~~. So far we have gotten the run around from them. At this point the only commitment we have gotten from the state is that they will not knock down the empty homes in Akepo lane, and that Ariyoshi recognizes the People's Movement and the lifestyle we live. We are still willing to meet with Ariyoshi, because he is the only one at this point that can give us what we want.

WHY DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION WANT TO JOIN THE GRASSROOTS COALITION?

We feel that poor and working people like ourselves have more to gain if we put our efforts together and share our ideas. If we don't communicate with each other we will all be isolated. By working together we can share our ideas on how to organize ~~it~~ etc. We feel that we have a lot to learn and the Grassroots Coalition can help us. We also feel that we can ^{help} the other organizations already in the coalition. The problem is greater than our own communities.