

8<sup>th</sup> November 1999

Mr. Lau Chin-shek  
Chairman  
Manpower Panel, Legislative Council Secretariat  
Fax: 2877 8024

Dear Mr. Lau,

**Incidental Driving for  
Foreign Domestic Helpers (FDH)**

As an employer of a Filipino couple as FDHs in my home, I wish to express my concern and indeed opposition to the discussed change in laws regarding the ability to use a FDH for incidental driving in addition to their other duties. In my household this will mean that the Filipino husband of my Filipina cook, whose main duties relate to gardening, the technical aspects of our household and looking after our dog, will no longer be able to perform the all-round function which justifies me employing him.

If he has to thereby lose his job and return to the Philippines, I imagine my cook will also wish to leave. Although I will have to go to the trouble of employing another cook, I assure you I will definitely not employ a full-time local Hong Kong driver, firstly because I do not need a full-time driver (he would be sitting around all day doing nothing) and secondly because I could not justify or afford the cost.

So I must conclude that by changing the existing rules, in my case and I am sure in many other cases, there will be nothing gained for local drivers and, on the contrary, both foreign and local business people will find this to be just another nail in the coffin making Hong Kong less attractive and convenient to work here. I would seriously urge Government not to succumb to the arguments of the local drivers union and thereby in vain depriving existing staff of their jobs which, in itself, should not be condoned by a democratic government.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony J. Hardy