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Monday, March 17, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water and Land Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 414 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813

RE; HB 2526 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN – COMMENTS

Senate Committees on Water and Land and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, March 17, 2008, 2 PM, Room 414

Chairs Hee and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

I am Harry Saunders, President of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our testimony in support of the intent of this bill and to offer comments on the HB 2526 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

HB 2526 seeks to incorporate smart growth principles into the State Plan. We are not opposed to the principles of smart growth and in fact incorporate many of them, when we are able, into the planning of our communities. We are, however, concerned that the ten principles of smart growth are being incorporated into the statutes as policies when the concepts can be in conflict with county zoning ordinances and/or market realities.

Rather than having smart growth principles mandated as policy, our preference is to work with the state and counties to amend the ordinances to allow and <u>incentivize</u> smart growth. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to require the counties to 1) amend their zoning codes to allow smart growth, and 2) provide incentives such as expedited permitting, density bonuses, mixed-use zoning, and other motivators to encourage smart growth to occur.

Mahalo for taking our comments into consideration. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Carleton Ching, Vice President of Government and Community Relations, at 548-3793.

Sincerely,

Harry A. Saunders President

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