

HAWAII COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS
OF APARTMENT OWNERS

P.O. Box 726
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Telephone (808) 566-2122

LATE TESTIMONY

February 25, 2008

Rep. Tommy Waters, Chair
Rep. Blake Oshiro, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB 3331, HD1 Re Condominiums
Hearing: Tues., Feb. 26, 2008, 2:45 p.m., Conf. Rm. #325

Chair Waters and Vice-Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

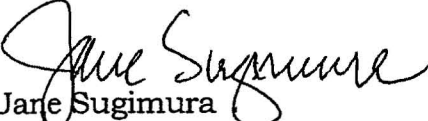
I am Jane Sugimura, President of the Hawaii Council of Associations of Apartment Owners (HCAAO).

HCAAO supports this bill, as amended, and urges you to pass it out of committee.

This bill would amend the condominium dispute resolution ("CDR") provision in both HRS 514A and HRS 154B. It clarifies the term "participation in mediation" by requiring the mediator to provide written notices to all parties of the request to mediate, the disposition of the mediation and to specify the termination date. It also inserts certain language that was inadvertently deleted in 2007 relating to the types of claims would be subject to mediation. This bill also prevents a party from moving the dispute into arbitration for a 30-day period in the event the complainant intended to resolve it through the CDR program.

HCAAO supported the passage of the CDR pilot project in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and hopes that the program would provide a cheaper, quicker alternative to dispute resolution among condominium owners, board members and others in the condominium community and with these amendments, we believe that that will happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Jane Sugimura
President