



**Hawaii  
Association of  
REALTORS®**  
www.hawaii Realtors.com

The REALTOR® Building  
1136 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 220  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 733-7060  
Fax: (808) 737-4977  
Neighbor Islands: (888) 737-9070  
Email: har@hawaii Realtors.com

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March 11, 2008

**The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair**  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE:** H.C.R. 120 & H.R. 102 – Recommending that Realtors Promote the Principles of Universal Design.  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 @ 2:15 p.m., Room 325

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) submits comments on H.C.R. 120 & H.R. 102.

This resolution requests Realtors to 1) promote the marketing of properties which incorporate the principles of universal design into their design; 2) develop standards for determining whether a property incorporates universal design principles into its design; and 3) designate a symbol, to be included within their listing of a property, which would indicate whether a property satisfied their standards for determining whether a property has incorporated universal design principles into its design.

We believe organizations best suited to address the needs of residents are National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and AARP. They have developed the Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) program to address the needs of consumers who want to make their house a home for a lifetime - regardless of one's age, or functional abilities. AARP, with an online Universal Design Modification Program, educates its constituents on housing issues: <http://www.aarp.org/universalthome>.

The REALTORS® do not have the necessary training and expertise to advise on the principles of universal design and the provisions of the resolution would require REALTORS® to perform duties that fall outside of the licensing laws that govern real estate licensees.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

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