

TO: SENATE SGT.-AT-ARMS OFFICE

For Hearing on Tuesday, February 26, 2007, at 9:00 A.M., Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

SUBJ: SUPPORT OF SB 1248 SD1, RELATING TO ELECTRICAL LICENSING.

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing,

My name is David Lovelace and I have been providing, on a continued basis since 1991, Honolulu Community College assistance as an instructor in the field of Electrical Motor Control and the required State of Hawaii Electrical Code Competency Course. I hold a State of Hawaii Supervising Electricians License and a C-13 Specialty Electrical Contractors License.

My statement is in support of SB 1248 SD1. The technical aspect of electrical installations is continually becoming more and more advanced as can be seen each and every time the National Electrical Code is updated. Just recently in Feb 2007, OSHA accepted recommendations from outside sources and technical advisors to adopt the publication of date for its enforceable standard. That action was enacted for enforcement in August of 2007. Within that document, the NEC, articles are written addressing the definition of a qualified person. That definition states that not only working knowledge is necessary, but also training in the hazards involved. Hence, the State of Hawaii's recognition of this required each an every licensed electrician to either attend a Continued Code Competency Course or to be tested, thru the approved testing organization, on the required goals set forth by the electrical committee to renew the required license. As an instructor for Honolulu Community College for the competency course, I have seen the results of licensed electricians who have only completed the State of Hawaii minimum requirements of 10,000 working hours without having completed an accredited academic or apprenticeship program. Many times I have had to stop my presentation of Code changes to explain electrical theory and the technical aspects surrounding the Code section and the adopted change. These licensed electricians with minimal academic background are also, by the State of Hawaii, allowed to apply and obtain an electrical contractors license. I have had owners of electrical contracting companies call me on my job to question whether a duplex receptacle is required to be mounted with the U-ground up or down. How then are these electricians meeting the requirement of the National Electrical Code's definition, contained in Article 100, for a "Qualified Person"? That definition requires "knowledge of electrical equipment and installations as well as safety training in the hazards involved". Very seldom in class electricians respond to even having knowledge of the National Fire Protection Association Publication 70E-2004, Standards for Electrical Safety in the Workplace mentioned in the FPN for a "Qualified Person". The State of Hawaii adopts on a routine basis the updated version of the National Electrical Code but should be questioned on fulfilling the first statement in the first article of the Code: "The practical safe-guarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity". How does the State of Hawaii fulfill that requirement without requiring academic or apprenticeship completion as the basis for an electrical license?