

HAWAII COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS
OF APARTMENT OWNERS

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March 22, 2008

Rep. Robert Herkes Chair
Rep. Angus McKelvey, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1809 Re Condominiums
Hearing: Mon., March 24, 2008, 2 p.m., Conf. Rm. #325

Chair Herkes and Vice-Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

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

HCAAO agrees with the intent and purpose of this bill and asks that this Committee pass it out unamended. Requiring the board of directors to schedule a special meeting to be held on a date within sixty days of the receipt of a petition and clarifying that if the board fails to schedule a special meeting, the special meeting set by the petitioners will be at the association's expense and will provide transparency and greater participation in and access to condominium unit owners' association meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Jane Sugimura
President



HAWAII INDEPENDENT CONDOMINIUM & COOPERATIVE OWNERS
1600 ALA MOANA BLVD. - APT. 3100 - HONOLULU - HAWAII 96815

March 24, 2008

Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce

Testimony on SB 1809 Relating to Condominiums

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1809 on behalf of the Hawaii Independent Condominium and Co-op Owners (HICCO). The mission of our organization is to represent the interests of individual condominium and Co-Op owners in the State of Hawaii.

Chapter 514B provides an opportunity for condominium owners of an Association to request a special Association meeting provided that at least 25% of owners request such a meeting. The current statute also provides that if the Board of Directors disregards the petition of the owners and refuses to schedule the meeting, the owners themselves can legally schedule the meeting.

However, SB1809 clarifies that if the Board schedules the meeting that the meeting must be held within sixty days and that if the Board refuses to schedule the meeting, it will be held at the Association's expense. In at least one case, the Board scheduled a special meeting the following year, thereby defeating the efforts of the owners who were seeking the special meeting.

It is difficult enough to obtain 25% of owners who are willing to request a special Association meeting without having the Board of Directors prevent the meeting from taking place.

HICCO respectfully requests that your committee approve SB 1809.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Port".

Richard Port, Chair
Legislative Committee

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