



SIMPSON STRONG-TIE® COMPANY, INC.

The World's "No Equal" Connector Company

808 Ahua Street, MB#85 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Phone: 808.479.1216 • Fax: 808.941.9079

LATE

(CPH) Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing

Thursday February 7, 2008

9:00 A.M.

Room 229

RE: SENATE BILL 2783 -- RELATING TO LOSS MITIGATION

Testimony of Timothy J. Waite, P.E., Sales Engineer for the Simpson Strong-Tie Company

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing

I am Timothy Waite, Sales Engineer and Product Manager for the Simpson Strong-Tie Company. Simpson Strong-Tie is an \$863 million sales international manufacturing company specializing in hurricane and earthquake devices. Simpson Strong-Tie Company has manufactured wood-to-wood and wood-to-concrete connectors since 1956. Our company is recognized by architects, engineers and homebuilders as the leading manufacturer of structural connectors. My responsibilities include Hawaii and the South Pacific.

I am in strong support of Senate Bill 2783, "Relating to Loss Mitigation". This program is very important to the people of Hawaii providing them assistance to retrofit their homes in the absence of adequate emergency shelters in a future hurricane or seismic event. The Loss Mitigation Grant Program is only in its beginning stages after years of development and needs to be given the proper opportunity for the public to participate. Loss mitigation is seen throughout the world as a long term, sustained challenge because citizens' interest rises and falls based on the news of storms and earthquakes. The appropriation this year should include a mandate for public awareness. There simply has been little marketing effort by the State since the Japanese Cultural Center kickoff (attended by over 500 citizens) that was sponsored by our Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii. Speaking with hundreds of our citizens at different trades shows across the islands I have found that very few even know about this program.

We consider this an excellent bill for building the program momentum and, in particular, for adding the availability of earthquake mitigation devices as an eligible item for the grants. Having participated in many building inspections on the Big Island after the October 2006 earthquakes as a volunteer with SEAHO and the State Civil Defense, there is a lot we can do to help fortify and improve our structures to better withstand earthquakes and hurricanes.

page 2—SB 2783—Timothy J. Waite

Simpson Strong-Tie is the first company to test and manufacture hurricane ties on Hawaii 'single wall' homes using actual redwood tongue and groove siding. Through our efforts there are now options for contractors and home owners to more easily retrofit these homes. The Loss Mitigation Grant Program provided the impetus for our company to invest valuable engineering and lab time to develop these new connectors. By building upon this program our company will be encouraged to continue product development and work closely with the UH Civil Engineering Department, State Civil Defense, and the structural engineering community to provide cost effective retrofit solutions for the people of Hawaii, including safe rooms.

It is for these reasons that we support Senate Bill 2783.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Waite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Timothy J. Waite, P.E.
Sales Engineer