

HB 1059



P.O. Box 3000  
Honolulu, HI 96802-3000

April 3, 2009

HB 1059, HD2 SD1- Relating to the One Call Center

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Stephanie Ackerman, and I am the Vice President of The Gas Company. Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 1059 HD2 SD1.

The Gas Company supports HB 1059 HD2 SD1. It continues the One Call Center beyond the pilot program period making it permanent. Since 2004, the One Call Center served an essential function in that it applied to all entities involved in excavation and thereby avoided any disruption of the safe and reliable delivery of subsurface utility service. In addition, as a central database, the One Call Center provided advanced warning to utility operators, contractors and excavators attempting to locate underground gas, electric, telecommunications, cable, water, and/or sewer lines.

The Gas Company has experienced incidents involving broken gas lines by pest control companies and therefore in the interest of public safety, we would prefer that The One Call Center mandate apply to all parties.

The One Call Center benefits the general public and government, and passage of HB 1059 HD2 SD1 would assure the continuance of this important service. We respectfully request that the exemption currently included in HB1059, HD2 SD1 be removed so that all aspects of the pilot project are made permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**HOUSE BILL 1059 HD 2 SD 1  
RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER**

**BY**

**STEVEN P. GOLDEN  
CHAIR, PUC ONE CALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 6, 2009**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the One Call Center Advisory Committee on House Bill 1059 HD 2 SD 1, which would repeal the current sunset date of June 30, 2009 for the Hawaii One Call Center ("HOCC"). The HOCC provides advanced warning to excavators on the location of underground facilities prior to excavating.

The Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives of the utilities, General Contractors Association, Building Industry Association and government agencies including the four counties, approved a proposal at its meeting in January to support the repeal of the current sunset date for the Hawaii One call Center Center. We believe that the Center has increased public awareness of the importance of calling before digging and has resulted in less damage to underground facilities and the inconvenience caused to the affected customers and the traveling public which is impacted by road closures required to complete costly, unnecessary repairs.

This mandatory "Call Before You Dig" program provides excavators with a single phone number to call for locating and marking underground lines, including, but not limited to, lines for electric, gas, telecommunications, cable, water, and sewer facilities.

The Advisory Committee supports the original version of HB 1059 and is currently discussing the proposed three-year exemption for pest control operators which is included in the current SD 1 version of this bill. Some members of the One Call Advisory Committee are concerned about granting a broad legislative exemption for a single industry and believe that the concerns of the pest control operators can more appropriately be addressed during the development of the administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important measure.