

HB 520

HD1

EDT

AIA Hawaii State Council

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



March 20, 2009

Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

RE: House Bill 520 HD1
Relating to Buildings

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

Although the AIA Hawaii State Council supports the stated intent of House Bill 520 HD1, we believe the inadvertent result of the bill will be to remove the ability of the State to require photographic documentation of historic resources that are already on the Hawaii or National Register of Historic Places. This ability has been part of preservation law and practice in Hawaii for decades.

The problem with HB 520 results from the striking of language that specifically mentions buildings listed on the Hawaii or National Register of Historic Places.

We support a clear repeal of Act 228, without trying to write around the issues raised by its enactment. Only in this way can we be sure to return to the conditions that existed prior to its enactment.

Thank you

Glenn Mason, AIA

cc. John Fullmer, President, AIA Hawaii State Council
Paul Louie, AIA
Dan Chun, FAIA

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March 20, 2009

To: The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

From: Jacqueline Pamerleau - Walden

Subject: House Bill 520 H.D. 1 - Relating to Buildings

I am opposed to HB 520 H.D. 1- relating to buildings, that seeks to repeal the amendments made by Act228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

I believe that Act 228 is important although it does need clarification. In spite of the extensive and expensive burden on the people of Hawaii Act 228, is important to the preservation of Hawaii's heritage. The review process must surely be re-evaluated in order to clarify and correct any inefficacies. If Act 228 was implemented in the manner intended, the burden on the homeowners and Hawaii businesses would not be an issue.

There are many individuals and organizations in favor of HB 520 H.D. 1, and as a result I feel I must express my concerns. Having a degree in Cultural Anthropology as well as Historic Preservation and having previously worked as an Archaeologist, what I find very disconcerting is the lack of regard and appreciation for Hawaii's history. A sense of pride and appreciation for Hawaii's heritage is in important and necessary aspect for our society, what kind of example is the State setting by supporting a bill that communicates that our history is not important.

Although not all buildings photographed will qualify as historically significant the documentation of history and architecture is still important. The premise of the Act is a valuable one. I cannot express enough the importance of documenting our history it is a fundamental undertaking of any civilized society.

Act 288 is valuable for our history and our culture. We need to cherish our heritage not disrespect it; and Act 288 helps us in this endeavor. When a new system is imposed it may take some time to work out the kinks, let's act reasonably when confronting issues; the repeal of Act 288 is a rash response a proposal to amend is the more reasonable approach. Act 288 needs fixing, not repeal.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Pamerleau-Walden