



January 27, 2009

To: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

From: Dick Botti and Lauren Zirbel, Hawaii Food Industry Association

Re: HB 73 RELATING TO LIQUOR LICENSES.

Thank you Chair McKelvey and Committee members for the opportunity to testify. HFIA is a non-profit trade association tasked with representing the concerns of businesses in the food retail, wholesale and distribution industry.

HFIA strongly opposes HB 73 Relating to Liquor Licenses which; "Extends the period of time, from 1 to 3 years, that an applicant who has been denied or refused a liquor license must wait before becoming eligible to submit another application for the same class of license at the same location."

HFIA members feel that this is an undue burden on sales and is overly punitive towards all types of businesses that require liquor licenses to maintain a viable profit margin. With business slow and the difficulty of staying in the black already at all time highs this bill could force small businesses who are having trouble obtaining liquor licenses over the edge towards closure.

Thank you for your consideration.