

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, February 10, 2010
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2921, H.D. 1, RELATING TO LICENSING.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Norman Ahu, Chairperson and Public Member of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers ("**Board**"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to present testimony on H.B. No. 2921, H.D.1, Relating to Licensing.

This bill proposes to (1) reduce the minimum experience requirements for the journey worker specialty electrician, journey worker industrial electrician, supervising specialty electrician, and the supervising industrial electrician licensing classifications; and (2) add a new educational requirement for all journey worker licensing classifications and the maintenance electrician licensing classification.

The Board supports the amendments proposed in this bill; provided that the bill's effective date is amended to July 1, 2015, thereby providing adequate time to ensure that the Board's concerns regarding the cost of the educational classes, availability of the classes, number of instructors qualified to teach the classes, locations of the classes, and accessibility of the classes are sufficiently resolved. The July 1, 2015 effective date will also provide advanced notice to

Testimony on House Bill No. 2921, H.D. 1
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Page 2

potential applicants of the upcoming change in the licensing requirements and allow them to meet the current experience-only requirements prior to July 1, 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
February 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

by
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

HB 2921 HD1 RELATED TO LICENSING

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The community colleges are prepared to provide the education and training necessary to meet the licensing requirements contained in this bill. Not only does Honolulu community college offer an extensive set of programs to prepare individuals for employment in the construction trades, but we also have colleges on Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island who have programs that can meet the proposed requirements of the bill given sufficient lead time if a special program of study needs to be developed.



HAWAII ELECTRICIANS TRAINING FUND

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 301 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-5003 • PHONE (808) 847-0829 • FAX (808) 843-8818

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HB2921 HD1, RELATING TO LICENSING

**TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
(VIA FAX 843-8818)**

For Hearing on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 2:00 P.M., in Conference Room 325

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2921 HD1

Honorable Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee members,

My name is David Lovelace. I am a Training Coordinator for the Hawaii Electricians Training Fund. We are a non-profit organization that provides substantial training for all our beneficiaries of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 and, thru contract, others requiring electrical education for the safety and well-being of the industry. Our training involves electrical theory, practical applications, and electrical and construction safety as presented through apprenticeship programs and skilled upgrade training for journeyworkers. We believe in and follow the definition stated in the Department of Labor 29 CFR Part 29 that a:

"Journeyworker means a worker who has attained a level of skill, abilities and competencies recognized within an industry as having mastered the skills and competencies required for the occupation. (Use of the term may also refer to a mentor, technician, specialist or other skilled worker who has documented sufficient skills and knowledge of an occupation, either through formal apprenticeship or through practical on-the-job experience and formal training."

We believe that in order to obtain "a level of skill, abilities and competencies recognized within an industry" for the electrical field an apprentice or trainee must possess a thorough understanding of the theory of electricity and the dangers presented by misapplied assumed knowledge.

The State of Hawaii has recognized the need to qualify specific tradespersons in their abilities to perform and direct work in a safe and workmanlike manner thereby:

" HRS §448E-9 Unlicensed activity. (a) No person shall act or assume to act as a journey worker electrician, journey worker specialty electrician, supervising electrician, supervising specialty electrician, journey worker plumber, master plumber, maintenance electrician, journey worker industrial electrician, or supervising industrial electrician, or advertise or hold the person's self out as an electrician or plumber, without a license previously obtained in compliance with this chapter and the rules of the board;..."

Records of test results for the license process have shown that the failing rate has been quite high and many have chosen to pay a third party company to "teach" the test so they might pass. We



HAWAII ELECTRICIANS TRAINING FUND

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 301 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-5003 • PHONE (808) 847-0629 • FAX (808) 843-8818

believe this has diminished the license process and the need for the full understanding of the theory of electricity and its components to fulfill "a level of skill, abilities and competencies recognized within an industry". We also feel that the continuation of this process has been extended to the apprentice or trainee level as the state requires only that:

HRS §448E-9 b) An apprentice or trainee learning the trade of a person licensed under this chapter shall not be required to have a license if the apprentice or trainee acts under the supervision of a person appropriately licensed under this chapter.

As the journeyworker is only required to complete a specified amount of work hours in the attainment of a State of Hawaii license, only the attained knowledge through that process is all the state could expect to pass on to an apprentice or trainee. If the state required an academic knowledge base, we feel that the licensed individual would extend that knowledge to the apprentice or trainee.

We also feel that the division of the electrical licenses should be reflected in the applicable scope of the performance. We feel a reduction in requirements in the specific classifications better reflects the needed expertise.

We are also in agreement that the effective date, July 31, 2013, for the academic portion of this license requirement be retained as in HD1, but feel the need to immediately reduce the necessary on-the-job training time or work experience, in the field of application, would better serve the electrical industry and the general public. The scope of work for the specific licenses gives merit to the needed reduction in hours necessary for the application process (a journeyworker specialty licensed person would not need to be as experienced as a journeyworker electrician).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in strong support for HB2921 HD1.

Thank you,

David Lovelace
Hawaii Electricians Training Fund
Training Coordinator