

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

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010**

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2950, RELATING TO ELECTRICIANS.

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

My name is Charlene Tamanaha, Executive Officer of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2950, which proposes to 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.

The Board discussed this measure at its February 9, 2010 meeting and voted to oppose the reduction of minimum experience requirements without the inclusion of an educational requirement for these electrician classifications. Due to national training trends and technological advances, the Board supports changing the current experience-only requirements to a mix of experience in the trade along with an added academic component consisting of electrical theory. For your information, House Bill No. 2921, H.D. 1, which is closely aligned with this position of the Board, was heard by your Committee on February 10, 2010. There is, however, disagreement with the effective date of this bill, as the Board would like an effective date of July 1, 2015.

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If House Bill No. 2950 is to pass out of your Committee, we request the measure be amended by replacing its contents with House Bill No. 2921, H.D. 1 and by inserting a defective effective date to encourage further discussion. Should your Committee wish to hold or defer House Bill No. 2950, the Board would strongly support such decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2950.



HAWAII ELECTRICIANS TRAINING FUND

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TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HB2950, RELATING TO ELECTRICIANS

TO: **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

(VIA FAX 843-8818)

For Hearing on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, at 2:00 P.M., in Conference Room 325

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2950**

Honorable Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and Consumer Protection and 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.

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;...”

Yet, with the above statement, there exist in the State of Hawaii only **32 licensed Specialty Electricians**. The need to enforce the above requirement in protecting the people of Hawaii is very substantial, but with the requirement of the Specialty Electrician's license the same as the Journeyman Electrician's license, the low-voltage installer feels the requirements are inconsistent to the actual work needs. Therefore, complete disregard of the license requirement is widespread throughout the state. We feel a temporary reduction in the requirements of the Specialty and Industrial licenses will allow those that are adamant to yield to the law before the requirements and enforcement increase. Surely, the state could use the additional license fees that will be generated with more applicants and licensed individuals.

Also, we are in pursuit of increased academic requirements for all electrical licenses that even with the passage of those bills taking effect in July of 2013, a person starting in the specialty or industrial field at the end of this session would probably not obtain sufficient on-the-job-training to allow him to meet the minimum requirements for application. It is the present installers that we are trying to address to become licensed. Once licensed a specialty or industrial electrician would be required, as all licensed electricians, to attend the National Electrical Code update course offered through the community college system to renew the license which would at least provide some academic requirement until the proposed academic bill would take effect in 2013.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in strong support for HB2950.

Thank you,

David Lovelace
Hawaii Electricians Training Fund
Training Coordinator