

Submitted by: Arvid T. Youngquist  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [thirr33@gmail.com](mailto:thirr33@gmail.com)  
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Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Senate Committee on Labor  
Chair Dwight Y. Takamine  
Vice Chair Brian T. Taniguchi  
The Right Honorable Members of the Senate Labor Committee

Please accept my late testimony in support of SB 1125 Relating to Procurement.

This requires all offerors and subcontractors for construction contracts subject to the State of Hawaii public procurement code, to maintain or participate in a bona fide, state-approved apprenticeship program at the time of general bidding.



**Associated Builders and Contractors of Hawaii  
80 Sand Island Access Road, M-119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**

February 10, 2009

TESTIMONY to be PRESENTED to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE on LABOR  
For hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:45 PM, Room 224

by

Karl F. Borgstrom, President  
ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS OF HAWAII

**IN OPPOSITION TO**

**SENATE BILL 1125  
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Associated Builders and Contractors is a professional trade association representing Merit Shop construction contractors, suppliers and service providers throughout the State of Hawaii.

SB 1125 would allow only contractors with State-certified apprentice programs to bid on public construction projects in the trade areas of the contracted work. ABC Hawaii's apprentice training program is a unified training program with the 4 basic trades recognized by the State of Hawaii as certified by DLIR.

Under SB 1125, our member contractors would only be qualified to bid on state projects that involved one of those trades – plumbing, painting, electrical, or carpentry – even though they may be otherwise qualified to perform the work, and only if they had apprentices enrolled in the ABC Apprenticeship Program. The bill does not account for the fact that current, licensed journeymen employed by the firm may, in fact, have already graduated from the Program, nor does it account for the need for apprentices based on the size or scope of the project.

In these difficult economic times, and particularly for small contractors, the cost of having to maintain an active involvement in the Apprentice Program, whether or not you are using apprentices, could be significant.

For these reasons, Associated Builders and Contractor of Hawaii opposes SB 1125.

Thank you for your consideration; should the need arise, ABC Hawaii will respond to any requests of the Committee for additional information regarding this matter.