

TESTIMONY
SB 2110, SD1

Linda Lingle
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE,
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 17, 2010, 2:45 p.m.
Room 229, State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 2110, S.D. 1
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The HHFDC *supports the intent* of S.B. 2110, S.D. 1, but prefers the language of this bill as introduced. Governor Lingle convened the Affordable Housing Regulatory Barriers Task Force in response to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Call to Action. The Task Force's main objective is to identify barriers to affordable housing development in Hawaii and to recommend appropriate solutions. The original draft of this bill would implement part of the Task Force's recommendations.

One of the regulatory barriers identified by the Task Force is that non-discretionary, ministerial permits that are issued subsequent to approval of an affordable housing project take a significant amount of time to issue. To remedy this, the Task Force recommended the establishment of standard timeframes that govern permit issuances for affordable housing projects.

As introduced, this bill required state and county agencies to issue any ministerial permits associated with an approved affordable housing project within 45 days from the time of acceptance of the permit application for the project. It also created a cap on the number of reviews allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

BIA-HAWAII
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

February 17, 2010

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs:

Subject: Senate Bill No. SB 2110, SD1 Relating to Affordable Housing

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-HAWAII supports S.B. No. 2110, SD1 Relating to Affordable Housing..

The bill proposes to amend Chapter 201H HRS by requiring all state and county ministerial permits for a “government assisted housing program” be issued within 45 days of the application.

BIA-Hawaii supports the two amendments to SB 2110, as stated in Senate Standing Committee Report 2188:

- (1) Extending the time limit to issue ministerial permits to sixty day commencing upon the receipt by the appropriate state or county agency of a permit application deemed to be complete by the receiving state or county agency; and
- (2) Removing the provisions that limit the maximum number of comprehensive reviews of ministerial permits that a state or county agency may perform to two reviews per year.

The subject bill is the result of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development program initiated in 2007 called the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Thru Regulatory Reform. The Call to Action presented an opportunity for Hawaii to receive technical assistance from the federal government and collaborate with other states, counties, municipalities, and organizations to knock down the barriers imposed by governments in hopes of building more affordable housing.

The subject bill is intended to address this specific area and expedite the issuance of ministerial permits for government assisted housing projects.

We strongly support SB 2110, SD1..

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

Karen I. Nakamura
Chief Executive Officer, BIA-Hawaii



The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. SB 2110 SD 1, Relating to Affordable Housing

My name is Lance Wilhelm, President of the Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC). We represent over 200 members and associates in development-related industries. The mission of Hawaii Developers' Council (HDC) is to educate developers and the public regarding land, construction and development issues through public forums, seminars and publications. It is also the goal of HDC to promote high ethics and community responsibility in real estate development and related trades and professions.

HDC supports S.B. No. 2110 SD 1.

The bill proposes to amend Chapter 201H HRS by requiring all state and county ministerial permits for a "government assisted housing program" be issued within 60 days of the application.

The subject bill is the result of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development program initiated in 2007 called the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Thru Regulatory Reform. The Call to Action presented an opportunity for Hawaii to receive technical assistance from the federal government and collaborate with other states, counties, municipalities, and organizations to knock down the barriers imposed by governments in hopes of building more affordable housing.

The subject bill is intended to address this specific area and expedite the issuance of ministerial permits for government assisted housing projects.

We strongly support SB 2110 SD 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.



Housing Hawaii Inc., 841 Bishop Street, Suite 228 – Honolulu, HI 96813 – 808-523-8826

February 16, 2010

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 2:55 P.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Re: SB2110, SD1 – Relating to Affordable Housing

Testimony in Support

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2110, SD1, which expedites the construction of affordable housing units by requiring ministerial permits associated with the project to be issued by the state or county within forty-five days of acceptance of the permit application for the project

Housing Hawaii Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that advocates for the development of affordable housing statewide. HUD's Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse has identified administrative processes & streamlining as the number primary barriers to affordable housing construction.

We would point out that Hawaii has a severe shortage of affordable housing. Establishing timeframes that address the issuance of non-discretionary ministerial permits will move this process along.

SB2110, SD1, is a very balanced measure that should if implemented properly, shorten the permit processing time, for affordable housing projects. We would urge the committee to move this measure forward.

Respectfully,
George Massengale, J.D.
Member, Board of Directors



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and
Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 17, 2010; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229**

Subject: Senate Bill No. SB 2110 Relating to Affordable Housing

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). I am here to state The Chamber's support to Senate Bill No. 2110 SD1, relating to Affordable Housing.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The bill proposes to amend Chapter 201H HRS by requiring all state and county ministerial permits for a "government assisted housing program" be issued within 60 days of the application.

The subject bill is the result of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development program initiated in 2007 called the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Thru Regulatory Reform. The Call to Action presented an opportunity for Hawaii to receive technical assistance from the federal government and collaborate with other states, counties, municipalities, and organizations to knock down the barriers imposed by governments in hopes of building more affordable housing.

The subject bill is intended to address this specific area and expedite the issuance of ministerial permits for government assisted housing projects.

We strongly support SB 2110 SD 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

TESTIMONY
SB 2110, SD1
(END)