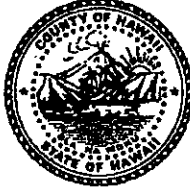


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Stephen J. Arnett
Housing
Administrator

County of Hawaii
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LATE

March 11, 2010

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Health

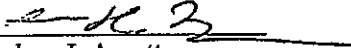
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2267 SD2
Hearing Date: 03-12-2010
Time: 9:30 AM
Conference Room: 329

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) **opposes** Senate Bill 2267 SD2, which establishes a fee for the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) to review construction plans to ensure compliance with law. While the OHCD supports the work of DCAB, the requirement will result in increased costs to developers, which will be passed on to the homeowners, increasing the cost of housing, regardless of income level. For developers of affordable housing projects, this escalated cost may negatively impact the viability of the project.

The Legislature should instead provide incentives, such as a reduction in fees and expedited review, to developers who encourage greater accessibility for people with disabilities in their developments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator



AWA & ASSOCIATES LLC

LATE

March 11, 2010

Honorable Chair and Members of the
Senate Committee on Health

Subject: Bill SB 2267, SD2

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 2267, SD2, Relating to Building Design for Persons with Disabilities.

I am a registered architect, licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii since 1976. During my many years in the profession, I have witnessed the growth in awareness, by the general public as well as the design profession, of the need to carefully design for the physically disabled.

As design professionals, we all recognize the importance of proper accessibility design. But as simple as this need may appear, the rules and regulations that guide this design process can be extremely complex and subject to many interpretations.

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) provides needed assistance to the design profession in ensuring that the design intent of accessibility design guidelines is met. DCAB's staff of knowledgeable professionals provide an invaluable service in reviewing construction documents, providing interpretive opinions and approving alternative design requests all pursuant to State law. The process not only serves the needs of the community but mitigates potential costly claims against the State and County governments that are subject to ADA statutes.

To continue this service requires needed funding that is no longer available through the State, but which can be successfully obtained with the passage of SB 2267.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Awa, AIA

nishimoto2-Ashley

From: Dean Aoki [dean96826@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 4:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony on S.B. 2267 SD2

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

LATE

Hearing March 12, 2010 – 9:30 AM

Testimony on S.B.2267 SD2

(Relating to Building Design for Persons with Disabilities)

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in strong support of S.B.2267 SD2.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the disability and communication access board to charge a fee to defray expenses or review of construction documents to ensure compliance with law and establishes temporary fees until the board adopts permanent fees.

As a practicing registered architect on Oahu, I recognize and appreciate the professional review, comments, guidance, and assistance provided by the staff of the disability and communication access board as they review construction documents for State and county facilities. A fee would place the cost upon the users and ensure the continuation of a quality construction document review process.

Shouldn't the effective date be sooner than 1/1/2050? Why would it be effective so far in the future?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dean Aoki
845 Lokahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96826