

**HB 376 RELATING TO STREAMLINING PERMIT, LICENSE, AND
APPROVAL APPLICATION PROCESSING**
February 14 2011 9:00am

Testimony in Opposition

Aloha Chairman Chang, Vice Chair Har and Committee members

As a private citizen I strongly oppose this bill.

I understand that private developers have a right to a speedy consideration of their application, but the public and the community have rights too. The permitting process is designed to allow neighbors and the community an opportunity to review applications. This bill would automatically strip that right.

I understand the fact that government agencies are understaffed and over-worked. I also understand the imperative to get the economy moving again in these times of high unemployment, but desperate times lead to desperate measures. And desperate measures usually lead to poor outcomes.

In this case the proposed bill leaves several hostages to fortune.

In separate testimony engineers have noted that this bill could lead to unsafe conditions if un-reviewed applications are allowed to proceed despite inadequate provision for, say, electric installations, In that case, might the state not also be liable if the injured party chooses to sue?

The time limit has the potential to bestow automatic approval on developments without proper review of traffic impacts and environmental concerns.

Conducting government business under the gun like this s not the way to do things.

Please reject this bill
Anthony Aalto

har3 - Megan

From: Stuart Coleman [scoleman34@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 12:31 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: HB 376

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I'm the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. I am writing to ask that you do not pass HB376 because it would lead to poor planning and development projects simply because of delays in agency reviews.

The public should not have to suffer the consequences of poor planning and ill-conceived development projects just because of bureaucratic delays at certain agencies. We all want to streamline government and make agencies more accountable but not at the risk of automatically approving poorly planned projects that may be harmful to the environment and the people of Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration and judgement in this matter.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman

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har3 - Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 12:07 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: marti@kahea.org
Subject: Testimony for HB376 on 2/14/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/14/2011 9:00:00 AM HB376

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ma
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: marti@kahea.org
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

har3 - Megan

From: Brian Bell [reachbrianbell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 11:29 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; Rep. Calvin Say; Honolulu Weekly Letters; Letters PBN; Star Advertiser Letters
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB376

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB376, which would automatically approve projects if an agency fails to pass rules and meet a sixty day deadline to review the project. This is a bad bill and I only need two examples to prove why:

1 - Imagine if drugs were automatically approved by the FDA after 30 days. What about airplanes, bridges, or roads? People might die. The same can happen constructing buildings, plus you might run into potentially unwanted side-effects like more uncontrolled sprawl with empty parking structures, no sidewalks, no character, no sense of place, and the paving over of what is left of our precious aina.

2- 3rd party reviewers (i.e. self regulation) cannot take the place of government regulatory employees. If in doubt, just look at the oil spill last year: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/05/20/oil-self-regulation-happe_n_582980.html

Why should the public suffer the effects of poor planning because of issues with agency delay?

Thank-you for the opportunity to testify.

Brian Bell

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