

SB 1213
SD 1

LATE TESTIMONY



BRUCE A. COPPA
Comptroller

RYAN OKAHARA
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE A. COPPA, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

February 24, 2011

S.B. 1213, S.D. 1

RELATING TO PERMITTING

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 1213, S.D. 1

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes S.B. 1213, S.D. 1 for the following reasons:

1. DAGS does not have the available resources needed to achieve this Legislative request.
2. DAGS does not have any administrative or jurisdictional control over the Counties when it comes to streamlining their Building Permit approval process and County Council adoption of administrative rules, codes, etc. Therefore, this Legislative initiative should remain with the respective Counties to address.

3. In lieu of this bill, it is suggested that the Legislature consider proposing a resolution that asks the four Counties to form a joint committee that will work on submitting a report to the Legislature on how the Building Permit approval process can be improved, whereby the Chair of the joint committee would be elected from the members of that group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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Support SB 1214 SD1

ESTABLISHES A TEMPORARY TASK FORCE UNDER THE COMPTROLLER TO REVIEW STATE AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO BE AMENDED OR REPEALED TO EXPEDITE AND MAKE LESS BURDENSOME THE PERMITTING AND APPROVAL PROCESS. (SD1)

I, Angela Kaaihue, support SB 1214 SD1

I think it would be beneficial to have a task force to expedite the process. I am very interested in Urban Housing and Development. I was told about ACT 201H by the DPP Director that would apply and could possibly benefit from. However, not knowing where to begin is the problem. Perhaps if the City and County had a special task force that would help guide me, almost like a concierge, it would be very beneficial in getting such projects or similar projects done.

I have observed that the process to get a house built on Oahu compared to that on the Big Island has been almost tripled the time. The permitting process here on Oahu was very tedious, and many people were involved in the process making it even more complicated. It's almost like having "too many cooks in the pot".

On several occasions, I was told I needed to hire an attorney. If I hired an attorney every time someone told me I needed an attorney, I would be broke, and would never have had a chance to break ground with any of my projects. If the City and County Department had some simple legal forms or examples for us "newbees" to follow, then we can do our own paper work.

I once knew someone who wanted to rezone a portion of his land. He hired an attorney, did a lot of paper work, and spent a lot of money. In the end, he never got it rezoned, and his attorney wanted more money. A lot of work was already done, but unfortunately he gave up and walked away thousands of dollars broke!! And soon after, he passed away.

Thus by having a task force that would help to fill out paper work, draw maps, then perhaps people would be looking to bring more projects to the table.

If this State and the City wants to move forward with construction projects, then we need to have a concierge or task team to help inspiring developers get the necessary things done. This is where the Obama administration could help

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business leader's move forward by helping to get the paperwork done. This is where people get "stuck", and end up sitting on projects. Because filling out paperwork is a very tedious and time-consuming task, but for someone specializing in filling out paper works, it would be very fast and easy for them.

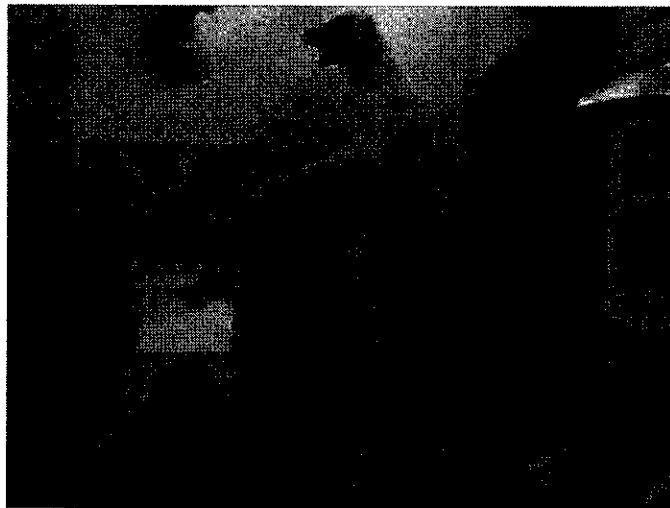
As time goes on, nothing gets done, and the paper work that is needed to get filled out, continues to sit on a desk in the same Manila envelope it was mailed in blank as can be. Let's use the City and State money, staff, and time, that way we can ensure that these people will get the job done, and they will get the job done right! This way, we can move forward and start building our economy again.

"New Construction, New Jobs, and a New Economy!"

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

Signed,

Ms. Angela Kaaihue



An interesting fact about Ms. Angela Kaaihue's granddaddy.

Stuffed Polar Bear, caught by Architect, Designer, and Developer, A.D. Stenger II of Austin Texas. Arthur Dallas Stenger first began building homes in the 1940s in Austin, mostly on Arthur Lane in the Barton Hills area, which was named after his father (the first Arthur Dallas Stenger), who was also an architect. After returning home from World War II, he began building homes for post war Austinites.