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**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Human Services and Judiciary and Labor
March 22, 2012
1:30 pm
State Capitol - Conference Room 016**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2302 HD 2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Chairs Chun Oakland and Hee, Vice Chairs Ihara and Shimabukuro, and members of the committees:

I am Gladys Quinto Marrone 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 provides the following comments on H.B. 2302, HD 2. The bill proposes to create a temporary Civil Service Exemption for Hawaii Public Housing Authority projects. Specifically, the bill will exempt temporarily from the state and county civil service:

- (1) Persons hired or contracted to repair and maintain vacant state or county housing units; and
- (2) Persons hired or contracted to perform planning, design, engineering, or permit processing work for state or county capital improvement projects. It also appropriates an unspecified dollar amount out of general obligation bonds to the Hawaii public housing authority for renovating uninhabitable public housing units.

We fully support the overall efforts of the Legislature to assist with the implementation of CIP funded projects in order to help stabilize the economy. The legislative intent is that these steps are necessary to promote economic recovery and job creation.

We believe that this is the first bill that identifies the need to supplement the agency's staff and resources in order to get the CIP funded projects implemented as soon as possible.

Toward this end, we respectfully suggest that the legislature consider language that will allow agencies to hire private entities (businesses) to assist with managing and processing the funded CIP projects. This will allow the funded projects to be processed by the agency with supplemental assistance from the private sector, similar to "program management."

We believe that agencies need additional assistance to get these funded CIP projects out to contract as soon as possible. Naturally, safe guards should be in place to ensure that the program management is being done by an independent third party who has no interest in the planning/design or construction phases of the project.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.