

LATE TESTIMONY



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
February 29, 2012
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 308
Agenda #4

House Bill No. 2419 HD1. Relating to Land Use

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **supports the original version of H.B. 2419.** The version of the bill would have required the counties seek declaratory ruling from the land use commission for reclassification of lands in a county general plan. Changes to the general plan take effect immediately upon approval of the reclassification by the land use commission.

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.

As proposed in HD 1, the counties actions would be limited to reclassification of lands 15 acres or less in a county general plan. Counties are already authorized to reclassify lands less than 15 acres. Therefore, the Chamber prefers and supports the original language in H.B. 2419, which applied the facilitated land use classification process to parcels of land greater than 15 acres once the lands have been identified for future growth through the county General/Development/Community plans process.

As stated in the bill, in making amendments to county general plans, the counties are inclusive, holding many public hearings and allowing for public input on the proposed amendments. Amendments to a county general plan are voted on by appointed commissions as well as elected legislative bodies. Consequently, counties conduct more community outreach than the land use commission.

Moreover, the Counties are better equipped to plan for urban expansion as they are primarily responsible for the government services that need to be provided in urban areas. We find the existing process cumbersome and needlessly redundant. For example, the current process would have the Counties plan for urban expansion in their general plans or sustainable community plans/development plans, then wait until private developer is

willing to take the matter before the State Land Use Commission to reclassify the lands for urban expansion.

The original version of the bill would remove some of the unnecessary redundancy in the process and also create more certainty for private investors. The HD 1 does not make changes to the existing system.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2419 on 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2419

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Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Arakawa
Organization: Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii
E-mail: darakawa@lurf.org
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

LURF supports HB2419, HD1, however, we believe that there is a mistake with respect to the HD1 revisions, which currently states that the bill applies to parcels less than 15 acres. The Land Use Commission does not have jurisdiction over parcels which are less than 15 acres anyway. We believe that the bill should apply to parcels greater than 15 acres.