

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tony@rmasalesco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2553 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:30:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2553

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Borge
Organization: RMA Sales
E-mail: tony@rmasalesco.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:
In opposition to HB 2553 HD2, SD1

We are a small locally owned and operated window manufacture/distributor that has done business statewide in the construction industry for over 50 years. The intent of this proposed bill is to create a revenue source for DCAB. This bill will increase the time and cost to builders, building owners and ultimately consumers by adding another layer of needless plan reviews for compliance with the ADA Code. Compliance for the ADA Code is currently handled through the multitude of professional consultants utilized by builders, developers, and building owners. We need to focus on measures that will reduce the cost to businesses and consumers by eliminating bureaucratic redundancy to enhance economic growth for all to prosper.

Thank you.
Respectively submitted by Anthony Borge

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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March 29, 2012

TO: HONORABLE SENATORS DAVID IGE, CHAIR, MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO H.B. 2553, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO BUILDING DESIGN FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.** Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to charge fees to defray expenses of reviewing construction plans to ensure compliance with state and federal law relating to accessibility. Establishes a fee schedule. Effective 1/1/2013. (SD1)

HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2012
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over six hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year; GCA remains the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii whose mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest. GCA **opposes** H.B. 2553, HD2, SD1, Relating to Building Design for Persons with Disabilities.

The Disability and Communications Access Board (DCAB) is mandated to review all plans for state and county projects for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) where public access is required or allowed. The purpose of this bill is to require DCAB to charge a fee for the review, similar to other fees that are charged for permits, as part of the design and construction process. Additionally, all funds collected as review fees would be deposited in the DAB special fund under Section 348F-7.

GCA recognizes the efforts of the Senate Committee on Health's amendments to the fee schedule and in recognizing that the fees previously proposed were excessively high. However, the current fee proposal which uses a percentage calculation to determine fees remains troublesome, especially for larger projects.

It would not be prudent to burden the private sector with inadvertent costs during this slow economic period. The adoption of this measure will result increased costs for the construction industry and additional delays where a review is required.

General contractors usually hire design and legal consultants to assure compliance with all applicable Federal, State and County laws. We believe that these consultants provide the necessary expertise and experience to prevent any needless delays in the review and permitting process. We believe that giving the DCAB the ability to charge fees for their services would duplicate the fees contractors pay to the design and legal professionals for their work to comply with ADA requirements.

The GCA **opposes** the passage of this measure and requests that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.