



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

3:00 pm

State Capitol - Conference Room 308

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2281 SD 1 HD 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii strongly supported the original version of S.B. No. 2281 SD1 HD1, as it proposes to authorize an agency or an applicant to bypass the preparation of an environmental assessment and proceed directly with an environmental impact statement for proposed actions that are determined to require an environmental impact statement.

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, the bill would remove a certain amount of redundancy in the Chapter 343 HRS Environmental Review process. While the bill will eliminate one opportunity for public comment, the public is afforded opportunities to comment on the document during the EIS preparation. In addition, the proposed process will reduce the cost and time for processing documents as it will eliminate the need for an EA when an EIS is going to be required.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

BIA-HAWAII
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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Tuesday, April 3, 2012
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State Capitol - Conference Room 308

RE: S.B. 2281 SD1 HD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair M. Lee, and members of the committee:

I am Gladys Marrone, Director of Government Relations for 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 **supports** S.B. No. 2281 SD1 HD1, as it proposes to authorize an agency or an applicant to bypass the preparation of an environmental assessment and proceed directly with an environmental impact statement for proposed actions that are determined to require an environmental impact statement.

The bill would remove a certain amount of redundancy in the Chapter 343 HRS Environmental Review process. While the proposed amendment will eliminate one opportunity for public comment, the public is afforded opportunities to comment on the document during the EIS preparation. In addition, the proposed process will reduce the cost and time for processing documents as it will eliminate the need for an EA when an EIS is going to be required.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.