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January 30, 2013

Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: HB24 Relating to Condominiums
Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 2:00 p.m. Conference Room #325

Aloha Chair McKelvey,

I have been testifying at Legislative hearings regarding condominium bills for more than a quarter century. My testimonies have generally been in support of owners regarding their disputes with their Board of Directors and/or Management Companies. This also why I am testifying before your Committee today.

Every condominium owner in Hawaii provides several dollars each year to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Most of the funds are used to provide workshops for members of Boards of Directors. **It is critical that some funds be used to help owners** when they have disputes with their Boards. Therefore, HB 24 will help individual owners in reducing their costs when they have a dispute with their Boards and reduce the likelihood of law suits which can crowd the Courts unnecessarily.

While the Legislature may eventually reduce the amount drawn from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs budget for this purpose, **there is no question whatsoever that some of the Department's funds can and should be used to lower the cost of mediation of Condominium disputes.**

If the Department states that they have insufficient funds for this purpose, I would suggest the Legislature arrange for an audit of condominium owner funds currently being provided to the Department.

I urge your Committee to support HB 24 Relating to Condominiums.

Sincerely,


Richard Port