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"Building Better Communities"

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Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

10:50 a.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 325

RE: S.B. 1207, H.D. 1, Relating to Transportation

Dear Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Government Relations Director for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the voice of the construction industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii respectfully provides the following **comments** on S.B. 1207, H.D. 1. The bill proposes to amend Chapter 266, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to exempt the Department of Transportation (DOT), Harbors Division, from the permit and site plan approvals requirements relating to submerged lands within the conservation district.

We understand that the Director of the DOT testified that this bill proposes to exempt submerged lands within the State's commercial harbors system from the provisions of Chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to permits and site plans approvals. This exemption will enable the Harbors Division to more efficiently implement needed projects to meet the growing needs of the maritime industry.

However, the language in the bill does not appear to limit the exemption to "existing commercial harbor system," but to ". . . all work involving submerged lands used for state commercial harbor purposes. . . "

If the intent is to exempt existing commercial harbors from the Conservation District Use Application process, then the language in the bill should be revised to make it clear that the exemption is for existing harbors and not a new commercial harbor or expansion of an existing commercial harbor.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.