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BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

"Building Better Communities"

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

8:30 a.m.

Capitol, Room 229

RE: S.B. 501, Relating to Contractors

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Galuteria, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Director of Government Relations 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 is **opposed** to Senate Bill No. 501, Relating to Contractors, which amends the definition of the "Responsible Managing Employee" to mean the person who qualifies the contracting entity to direct and supervise employees pursuant to Chapter 448E, HRS, which is the statute for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers.

The Contractors License Board licenses contracting entities who qualify for licensure through their Responsible Managing Employee ("RME"). Their RME meets the licensure requirements by documenting sufficient work experience and completing licensing examinations. All contracting entities, regardless of the license classification held, must have an RME to maintain its license. The bill is unclear as to why it seeks to redefine the RME as one who supervises employees in the electrical and plumbing trades only. We believe such an amendment is inappropriate, as the unintended consequences would adversely impact numerous other specialty classifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.