



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2014**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 570
RELATING TO CONTRACTORS**

**TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 570, Relating to Contractors. My name is Daria Loy-Goto, Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following testimony in support of the bill.

House Bill No. 570 amends §444-10.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), to increase the fine against unlicensed contractors who commit violations against the elderly from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The fine amount has not been increased since 1996 when §444-10.7, HRS, was enacted.

As the enforcement arm for the Contractors License Board, RICO prosecutes unlicensed contracting cases, many of which involve homeowners who are sixty-five years of age and older. Many victims of unlicensed contractors suffer in some way, from lost down payments to poor workmanship. Elderly victims, however, are particularly vulnerable because they may have fewer resources. For the last five years, RICO has investigated and/or prosecuted at least 47 contracting complaints involving elderly complainants. RICO supports this bill because it will strongly deter unlicensed contracting violations perpetrated against the elderly.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill No. 570.



**PRESENTATION OF THE
CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
9:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 570, RELATING TO CONTRACTORS.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Peter H. M. Lee, Chair of the Contractors License Board's Legislative Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill No. 570, which proposes to increase the maximum penalty for targeting elderly persons from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The Contractors License Board supports the increase of the maximum penalty as it enhances the State's ability to protect consumers.

Thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony on this bill.