

# BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

LATE

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## Testimony to the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thursday, January 30, 2014

2:50 p.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 225

### RE: S.B. 2111, RELATING TO ENERGY RESOURCES

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Espero, and Vice Chairs Ruderman and Baker, and members of the Committees:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Government Relations Director for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). BIA-Hawaii is 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, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-HAWAII opposes S.B. 2111, which states that no building permit shall be issued for a new single-family or duplex dwelling that does not include a solar water heater system that meets the standards established pursuant to section 269-44, unless the coordinator approves a variance.

Applications for the following gas variance shall only be accepted if the variance applicant:

1. Is the party who will ultimately control the energy consumption cost;
2. Signs an affidavit that the applicant will be the buyer-owner of the new house;
3. Has read a flyer issued by the department of business, economic development, and tourism showing the life cycle cost comparisons of a solar water heater and tank-less gas water heater of equivalent capacities.

The current version of the bill does not allow for a developer of a single family or duplex dwelling, who is not the buyer-owner to obtain a variance to allow a prospective buyer the choice of solar or tank-less gas water heater. If the this bill were to become law, new single family or duplex dwellings would not be allowed to have tank-less gas water heaters unless the dwelling was being built by or for an identified owner. Dwelling units built for sale on the market would be prohibited from installing the tank-less gas water heater option. We do not believe that legislation should be enacted that limits people's choices.

In addition, the bill provides no basis for why there is a need to amend the existing law. If tank-less gas water heaters are such a problem on Kauai, perhaps the County of Kauai should address their specific problem or concern in their own ordinances or permits rather than through a state-wide statutory change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.