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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Tuesday, February 4, 2014
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Room 229

SUBJECT: S.B. 2810, RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-chair Taniguchi, 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, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii has **concerns** regarding S.B. 2810, which would allow for more flexible use of the State's One Call Center funding collected from civil penalties by amending section 269E-6(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to read:

"(e) Civil penalties collected pursuant to this chapter [~~shall~~] may be used by the commission to educate the operating and excavating community in Hawaii [~~and to reduce the center's operating costs~~]."

Hawaii's One Call Center was established to provide advance warning to excavators in Hawaii of the location of subsurface installations in the area of an excavation for the purpose of protecting those installations from damage. The Center receive requests for locating underground facilities from excavators and to relay these requests to facility operators. The Center provides a means for excavators to obtain information about the location of underground facilities by calling only one number. This eliminates the need for duplicate calls to request the same information from each facility operator.

BIA-Hawaii is unclear about this proposed change in the existing law. If the purpose behind this bill is to reduce costs of the Center, the existing law already allows for revenues to be used towards reducing the Center's operating costs. We believe further justification is needed for this proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with your our views.