



**Testimony to the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 1880 HD1 RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the committee:

The Chamber is in support of H.B. No. 1880 which proposes to extend the sunset date of the limited exemption from licensing requirements for electrical contractors retained by an electric utility to work with high voltage and who are deemed qualified by the electric utility.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more about 2600 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The bill limits the exemption to electric utility companies, and is a pro-active means to insure the State has access to qualified “high voltage” electricians, splicers, and linemen.

Due to the current lack of electricians, splicers, and linemen in the State who are experienced and qualified to work with high voltage, it may be necessary for an electric utility to contract and retain qualified personnel from other jurisdictions in the United States to perform such high voltage work. Where the electric utility retains such qualified personnel, the electric utility would have direct supervision of such personnel and would have the contractual authority to inspect and approve of all high voltage work prior to acceptance by the electric utility. Further, the operations of the electric utility are regulated and supervised by the public utilities commission. Such regulation and general supervision provides an additional layer of protection for the general public in the event the operations of the electric utility require review.

We understand the exemption has only been used a few times over the last five (5) year period due to the lack of experienced high voltage personnel for specialized work that was being done by the electric utility company.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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January 24, 2018

To: House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Honorable Chairman Johanson & Vice Chairman Holt

From: Al Itamoto, Executive Director
Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii
National Electrical Contractors Association, Hawaii Chapter

Subject: HB 1880 Relating to Electrical Contractors

Notice of Hearing

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2018
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Johanson and Committee members:

The Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii (ECAH) is a non-profit association representing over 100 electrical contractors doing business in the State of Hawaii. ECAH **strongly opposes** the intent and purpose of HB 1880 extending the exemption from license requirements for electrical contractors and its workers retained by an electrical utility to work with high voltage and who are deemed to be qualified by the electric utility. The licensing process includes the training, testing and re-licensing required to be certified and licensed in the State of Hawaii. All electrical contractors and workers must comply with the provisions whether they work on private, public work or for an electrical utility. High voltage work is no different from other low or medium voltage work, they all requires the skills and safety training. Any exemption from the provisions of HRS 448-E and HRS 444-9.5(b) compromises the intent of these provisions and its intended purpose.

The proposed bill asked for an extension of the exemption based on the electric utility determining that the contractor and workers are deemed to be qualified. This allows the utility to be selective on whom they want to contract and does not follow the procurement process that provides for an even playing field for all contractors. Based on the above, ECAH **strongly opposes** the passage of HB 1880 and encourages this committee to kill this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.



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LATE

RE: HB 1880 – Relating to Electrical Contractors

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Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Holt, & members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii is in strong support of H.B. 1880 which proposes to extend the sunset date of the limited exemption from licensing requirements for electrical contractors retained by an electric utility to work with high voltage and who are deemed qualified by the electric utility.

The bill limits the exemption to electric utility companies, and is a proactive means to insure the State has access to qualified "high voltage" electricians, splicers, and linemen.

Due to the current lack of electricians, splicers, and linemen in the State who are experienced and qualified to work with high voltage, it may be necessary for an electric utility to contract and retain qualified personnel from other jurisdictions in the United States to perform such high voltage work. Where the electric utility retains such qualified personnel, the electric utility would have direct supervision of such personnel and would have the contractual authority to inspect and approve of all high voltage work prior to acceptance by the electric utility. Further, the operations of the electric utility are regulated and supervised by the public utilities commission. Such regulation and general supervision provides an additional layer of protection for the general public in the event the operations of the electric utility require review.

We understand the exemption has only been used a few times over the last five (5) year period due to the lack of experienced high voltage personnel for specialized work that was being done by the electric utility company.

We are in strong support of H.B. 1880, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

LATE



January 25, 2018

TO: REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL HOLT, VICE-CHAIR LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

FROM: BRUCE CONWAY, SR. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
POWER CONTRACTING LLC

RE: HOUSE BILL 1880 RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Holt and Members of the Committee:

I am Bruce Conway, Sr. Director of Operations for POWER Contracting LLC testifying in strong support of HB1880 Relating to Electrical Contractors. We are a licensed electrical contractor in Hawaii with C-62 and C-63 licenses under Chapter 444. Our Journeyman Lineman hold Journeyman Lineman cards from the IBEW and have completed extensive apprenticeship training that includes field training, class time, and successfully passing a Journeyman Lineman exam.

We are in strong support HB1880, and the extension of the repeal date from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2023 or later. Our industry works on the construction and maintenance of high voltage power lines both overhead and underground with distribution and transmission voltages requiring the specialized skills of Journeyman Lineman, Foreman and General Foreman who are all trained certified Journeyman Lineman. Public utilities like HECO and others contract with local and mainland companies to perform work on high voltage powerlines. Extension of the repeal date continues to enable Hawaii to have access to additional experienced high voltage Journeymen Lineman to provide the necessary capacity to meet the public utilities infrastructure construction and maintenance.

To summarize, HB1880 extends the repeal contained in section 448E-13 to June 30, 2023. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1880, and we ask that your Committee pass this short term measure to continue providing critical capacity to public utilities throughout the state.

HB-1880

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 9:07:07 AM

Testimony for LAB on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcia Wright	Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.	Support	Yes

Comments: