



LATE

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To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Chair of the Committee on Government Regulations
Chair Glenn Wakai, Chair on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology

From: Lorraine Minatoishi, Ph.D., AIA

Hearing: Monday, February 13, 2017, 1:25pm, Conference Room 414

Subject: Support for Bill SB 1059, Relating to Procurement, Assisting small business

Dear Chairs Kim and Wakai,

I am writing in **support of SB 1059**, which supports small business in Hawaii by forming concrete steps to facilitate small business procurement in Hawaii.

I am a women-owned small business owner of an architectural firm in downtown Honolulu which has been in business for 13 years. I am part of the federal small business program (SBA), and I can vouch for its incredible support of my business over the years. Through their guaranteed loan program, I have been granted guaranteed loans by the SBA, which allowed me to stay in business in 2013. I have learned business acumen by taking several courses offered free-of-charge by the SBA. I am now presently a certified 8(a) company which allows me to be a sole-source firm for the federal government. All of these programs have allowed me to survive in our male-dominated construction environment. It is a testament to how difficult it is for a woman-owned firm to get a foothold in the construction industry by looking at the number of women-owned architecture firms. There are only two other women-owned architecture firms in Honolulu that I know of, though in school, the female to male ratio was 50-50. Of those who graduated and decided to stay in the field, most work as staff architects, few venturing into administration or ownership of firms. This is why the DOT has labeled women-owned architecture firms as Disadvantage Small Business Enterprises.

I also speak for the other fields of business as well. Though one would like to think that the playing field has leveled out over the years, I can attest to the fact that this is not the case. Anglo-saxon males have played domineering roles in virtually every field of business.

I support bill SB 1059 as it seeks to help disadvantaged small business owners in Hawaii. This is a much-needed bill and will be to the benefit of all citizens of Hawaii. Please support bill SB 1059.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorraine'.

Lorraine Minatoishi, Ph.D., AIA