

**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:56:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LIBRADO COBIAN	AAC State of Hawaii licensed Asbestos Contractor 35 years	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I have been in the Asbestos Abatement Environmental Industry for 35 Years. I was the head consultant for State Farm Insurance in 1994 in California to review fraudulent asbestos environmental scam claims filed from the 1994 Northridge California Earthquake.

My fear and concern for this Bill is that The state of HAwaii Department of Health Asbestos Section does not have the Man Power and staffing to oversee this enforcement but even more critical to oversee the potential fraud that may arise from imposing these rules to single Family Home dwelling Owners. The existing rules applies to Commercial Buildings and Apartments or Condominium High Rise Buildings of more than 4 units, in which a professional Property Manager or managment company an HOA , is usually available to provide oversight and assistance to home owners. Single family Home owners do not have this type of support and assistance to avoid being scammed from potential fly by night companies looking for their next prey. There is talk in the mainland of many un-scrupulous companies wanting to set up shop in Hawaii for the next overzelous environmental scam opportunity.

I request the Legislatures to consult and discuss this with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Asbestos section Mr. Tom Lileikis and Mr. Chriss Decker of the State of Hawaii DOH Asbestos Section . Li Cobian of AAC Asbestos Analytical & Consultants

**HB-2115**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 4:55:52 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Quinn Vittum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please find the attached written testimony.

Mahalo,

-Quinn

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January 31, 2020

**The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair**  
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: H.B. 2115, Relating to Residential Property**

**HEARING: Friday, January 31, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.**

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee,

I am Ken Hiraki, Director of Government Affairs, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 10,000 members. HAR **opposes** H.B. 2115 which requires each county to establish a procedure to ensure that an asbestos survey and any necessary abatement are performed prior to the issuance of any permit for the renovation or demolition of a residential property

Almost all buildings in Hawai'i have some form of asbestos. Friable asbestos is asbestos that can be broken with minimal force. On the other hand, non-friable asbestos is safely locked into the material, which can be found in such things as roofing, flooring and tile.

Under this measure, a survey and abatement would be required prior to the issuance of any permit for any renovation of residential property. This measure would severely add to the delay of the permitting process, including those properties requiring emergency work, such as damage to a retaining wall.

Furthermore, there is a shortage of asbestos surveyors. This would be an additional delay to the permitting process.

Additionally, this measure is overly broad in that a property owner could be doing work on the outside of the property and the asbestos could be inside the home, such as in popcorn ceilings. Additionally, the asbestos could be non-friable, but still require a survey and abatement.

Finally, an asbestos survey and abatement are expensive. This measure could encourage property owners to forego the permitting process due to the added costs associated with this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.