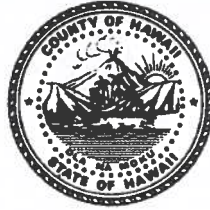


Harry Kim
Mayor



David Yamamoto, P.E.
Director

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Allan G. Simeon, P.E.
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 · Fax (808) 961-8630
public_works@hawaiicounty.gov

February 12, 2020

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Kanuha, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Housing

RE: TESTIMONY OPPOSING SB 2654, RELATING TO COUNTIES

Dear Chairs and members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 2654 relating Counties. This bill clarifies that the request for dedication for infrastructure is to connect an eligible affordable housing's infrastructure to the county's infrastructure. It also authorizes a licensed private building inspector, contracted by the state or county, to certify compliance with county standards.

We appreciate this bill's intent to knock down barriers to affordable housing, and point out that as is noted in Section 1, there are already existing processes in place providing opportunities to review affordable housing projects proposals in an expedited manner at the state and county levels.

The County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works opposes inspections by third parties whether it be for building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing inspections, and/or highways, roads, and streets. County officials would have no guarantee that such third party inspections meet the stringent requirements of county codes and ordinances. This would place the county in the untenable position of being forced to accept and maintain infrastructure without being able to determine if it meets county codes.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of SB 2654.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "David Yamamoto", is written over a horizontal line.

David Yamamoto, P.E.
Director, Hawai'i County Department of Public Works

SB-2654

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 1:10:01 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen Fox	Testifying for Faith Action	Support	No

Comments:

Faith Action supports SB2654, which promises to speed up completion of affordable housing projects.

SB-2654

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 6:07:04 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rev. Samuel L Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support this bill that will help to move affordable housing projects to completion.

SB-2654

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:16:43 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a member of Faith Action, and I support this bill. There are so many of us working for better affordable housing options in our state, but we're stymied by bottlenecks at various places. One problem area is getting necessary inspections done promptly to approve infrastructure connections for an affordable housing project. The county inspectors create unreasonable delays that are addressed by this bill, by authorizing licensed, third-party inspectors to perform those inspections. This could help speed along a project instead of causing months or years of delay in the bureaucracy. And that would mean more families in Hawaii could find affordable housing more quickly, which would be a very good thing.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of measures like this to help improve our community.

Ellen Godbey Carson

SB-2654

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:36:09 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, important to be able to move along the process. Inspections inability to their job in a timely manner inhibit our efforts at getting affordable project built



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Housing
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: SB 2654, RELATING TO COUNTIES

Chairs Chang and Chang, Vice Chairs Kanuha, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii (“The Chamber”) **supports** SB 2654 which clarifies that the request for dedication for infrastructure is to connect an eligible affordable housing’s infrastructure to the county’s infrastructure. This bill also authorizes a licensed private building inspector, contracted by the state or county, to certify compliance with county standards.

The Chamber is Hawaii’s leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Having counties accept infrastructure dedicated to them such as roads, right of ways, drainage, sewer, and water, has been an on-going issue for housing developers across the state. Until the county accepts the infrastructure, the developer is responsible for maintenance and upkeep, as well as liability for any accident that may be attributed to the lack of maintenance. Prolonging acceptance unnecessarily creates a financial burden for developers and drives up the cost of housing.

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



LATE

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
1:15 PM**

February 13, 2020

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2654, RELATED TO COUNTIES

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and members of the committee:

My name is Dwight Mitsunaga, 2020 President 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. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is in strong support of S.B. 2654.

Having counties accept infrastructure dedicated to them (i.e. roads, right of ways, drainage, sewer, water, etc.) has been an ongoing problem for housing developers across the state. Until the county accepts the infrastructure, the developer is responsible for maintenance and upkeep, and is liable for any accident attributed to the lack of maintenance. Prolonging acceptance unnecessarily creates a financial burden for developers, subsequently driving up the cost of housing.

We are in strong support of S.B. 2654 and appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

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Waipahu, HI 96797

www.biahawaii.org
info@biahawaii.org

Partners in Housing



LATE

Co Chairs:

Dean Uchida
BIA Hawaii

Jean Lilley
Hawaii Habitat for Humanity

Participating Organizations:

AIA Hawaii State Council

AIA Honolulu

AIA Maui

BIA-Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce of
Hawaii

EAH Housing

FACE

Hawaii Appleseed Center for
Law & Economic Justice

Hawaiian Community Assets

Hawaii Community
Development Board

Hawaii Habitat for Humanity

Self-Help Housing Corporation
of Hawaii

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
1:15 PM

February 13, 2020

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2654, RELATED TO COUNTIES

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and members of the committee:

Partners in Housing (PIH) was created by the Building Industry Association leaders and leaders from various non-profit developers and affordable housing advocates. We are committed to working with our community leaders to help solve the housing shortage in our beloved state and to be a solution to providing housing, specifically to people in Hawaii that are struggling with housing costs.

This new alliance has a basic tenet: Everyone in Hawaii should be able to afford stable, permanent rental or for-sale housing at all price points and income levels. Hawaii's current housing crisis requires that everyone involved in housing needs to work together toward addressing the housing need across the state. Our Partners in Housing support broad policies regarding housing and support services. We will advocate for planning, funding and building of infrastructure focusing on transit-oriented development areas and for more government support of affordable housing via funding, improved permitting and creative use of government lands.

PIH is in strong support of S.B. 2654. The counties' acceptance of infrastructure dedicated to them (i.e. roads, right of ways, drainage, sewer, water, etc.) has been an ongoing problem for housing developers across the state. Prolonging acceptance unnecessarily creates a financial burden for developers, which drives up the cost of housing.

We are in strong support of S.B. 2654 and appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.