

HB-15

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Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Say	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land:

I am a current member of the Honolulu City Council representing District 5 and serving as the Chair of the Zoning Committee. I stand in support of HB 15, which aims to authorize the State and the County in which the affected real property is situated to place a lien on the property for unpaid civil fines resulting from a violation of a land use law in connection with the property. It also authorizes the State and applicable County to sell the property after all notices, orders, and appeal proceedings, if any, are exhausted and use those revenues to pay unpaid civil fines related to that property.

Within the district I represent, we have multiple properties with Notices of Violations and/or Notices of Orders which have resulted in substantial fines to the property owners. These properties have brought health and safety hazards to the neighboring residents and community, however the accruing fines have not been a strong enough incentive to move the property owners to corrective action.

Our City Corporation Counsel is currently able to initiate a Judicial Foreclosure process, which has been successful in similar instances, however this is a long process that takes valuable resources away from other pressing legal matters. It also leaves the community with detrimental public nuisances such as fires, trash, and vermin. HB 15 would allow the City to keep our neighborhoods safe by stopping illegal activities, health hazards, and other public nuisances on properties in a more efficient and expeditious manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 15. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Calvin K.Y. Say
District 5,
Honolulu City Council