

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and  
Landscape Architects**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Thursday, February 8, 2024  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 2195, RELATING TO BUILDING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board will discuss this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 13, 2024, after which it will be able to provide this Committee with its position.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) repeal the discretion for public officials to require work in respect to any structure or improvement, regardless of the cost valuation of the work, to be subject to the requirements of professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensing laws; and (2) maintain that work in respect to structures within special management areas, flood hazard areas, and special design districts and in respect to improvements resulting from conditional use or other discretionary zoning permits, code compliances or variances, and building permit expediting procedures, are subject to the licensing laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
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**Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2195, Relating to Building Industry Professionals, Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **appreciates the intent but respectfully opposes HB2195**, which repeals the discretion for public officials to require work in respect to any structure or improvement, regardless of the cost valuation of the work, to be subject to the requirements of professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensing laws. Maintains that work in respect to structures within special management areas, flood hazard areas, and special design districts and in respect to improvements resulting from conditional use or other discretionary zoning permits, code compliances or variances, and building permit expediting procedures, are subject to the licensing laws. **We offer suggested amendments to remedy issues we see with the current draft of the bill.**

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy.

While we acknowledge the effort to enhance existing licensing regulations and streamline procedures for smaller, lower-value projects, Section 1 of the bill, in its current form, extends beyond licensing matters and risks impeding valuable initiatives aimed at streamlining permitting processes and reducing administrative hurdles, particularly for such projects. As currently drafted, the bill could potentially curtail the City and Counties' capacity to administer online, automated permitting systems, which have effectively alleviated backlogs and enhanced permitting efficiency for single-family and two-family dwellings within the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting. Furthermore, it could impose stricter and costlier requirements on all permits falling below specified dollar thresholds under the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and eliminate exemptions for permits governed by the Building Code, Plumbing Code, and Energy Code, irrespective of their monetary value. Additionally, the



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bill would strip the City and Counties of discretion in implementing permit expediting procedures aimed at reducing administrative burdens and facilitating time and cost savings across the board.

See our suggested edits highlighted below:

SECTION 1. Section 464-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the following work shall not be exempt from the requirements of this chapter [provided that any project submitted through an officially sanctioned online permitting tool remains exempt under subsections (a) and (b)]:

(1) Any building, structure, or residence in which the principal structural members consist of reinforced concrete or structural steel having riveted, bolted, or welded connections;

(2) ~~[Any structure or improvement for which the State, a county, or political subdivision requires the use of an appropriately licensed design professional, including but not limited to:~~

~~—————(A)] Structures within special management areas, flood hazard areas, and special design districts;~~ ~~or~~ [and]

~~—————(B)] (3) Improvements resulting from conditional use or other discretionary zoning permits, code compliances or variances, and building permit expediting procedures; and~~

[(3)-(4)] Any improvement resulting from rules established by a landowner or an association of owners for private property owned by the landowner or association of owners."



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Thank you for providing the opportunity to **voice our opposition to HB2195 in its current form and suggest amendments.**

Respectfully,

***/s/ Rocky Mould***

Executive Director