

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

**Before the  
House Committee on Housing  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 2442, RELATING TO BUILDING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra Matsushima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board).

The purpose of this bill is to update the cost valuations of work on buildings for the work to qualify for an exemption from Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 464, relating to the regulation of the practices of professional engineering, architecture, land surveying, and landscape architecture.

The Board will review and take a position on H.B. 2442, Relating to Building Industry Professionals, at its next meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022. The Board will provide the Committee with updated information about its position following the meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

February 8, 2022

9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Videoconference Room 423

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**H.B. 2442**

**RELATING TO BUILDING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

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Aloha Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and fellow Committee Members

I am offering this testimony in support of H.B. 2442 that amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 464-13 by updating the specified valuations.

HRS 464 regulates the practices of professional engineers, architects, and surveyors. It requires plans and specifications for construction projects be prepared by a licensed engineer or architect. HRS §464-13 provides for exemptions from this requirement based on the estimated cost of the project.

Currently single-story projects over \$40,000 and two-story projects over \$35,000 require plans to be prepared by a licensed engineer or architect. A simple kitchen renovation can easily exceed that amount. Instead of paying fees for an engineer or architect, which are five to ten percent of the project cost, the home owner could get a better grade of cabinets, new flooring, or new appliances. With our everlasting housing crunch and multi-generational households, a simple conversion of a covered lanai to a living area or a small addition should not require thousands of dollars for a professional plan preparer. And let's not forget our kupuna renovating their residences for safety and mobility.

Understand that this amendment does not exempt or affect building permit applicability, only the need for hiring a professional engineer or architect prepare the construction plans. All construction projects must be reviewed and approved by the counties to ensure applicable building codes are followed.

HRS §464-13 was last updated in 1979, 43 years ago. It is time to update the values used in this section to align with the intended spirit of the law. There is no argument that \$1 in 1979 went much further than \$1 will today. The amendment to HRS §464-13 by H.B. 2442 is much needed by home owners and long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Stuart Shoji