



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 225
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair;
The Honorable Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Housing,

COMMENTS ON SB779 RELATING TO HOUSING PRODUCTION

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our comments on SB779.

We strongly support affordable housing and rentals. While we want to expedite building affordable housing and rentals, there are many things that can hold up projects such as the State Land Use Commission and SHPD (2 state offices). We believe the counties should be getting more than the current share of the TAT and don't want to see them penalized if they are unable to meet the number of affordable housing and rental units in this bill for any reason, including state delays, disasters or other unforeseen circumstances.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Via Videoconference
1:00 PM**

February 9, 2021

RE: SB 779, Relating to Housing Production

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

My name is Beau Nobmann, 2021 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.

BIA Hawaii supports HB 779, which would require each county to authorize construction for a specified number of new housing units and reduces the amount of tax revenue the counties receive for failure to meet requirements.

Currently, the median price of a home on Oahu is a staggering \$870,000. We are in a severe housing and economic crisis, and any method of providing more affordable housing to our residents who need it should be of the highest priority to this Legislature. Thus, we are in strong support of this measure.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.