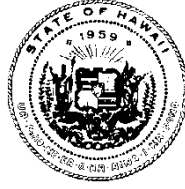


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 28, 2025 at 10:02 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
H.B. 1406 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES.

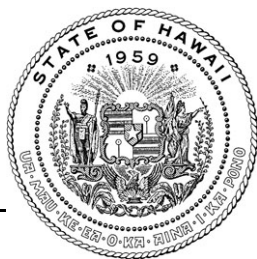
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** HB 1406 HD1 SD1, which establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification within the House of Representatives to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes. It also appropriates funds. HHFDC supports the measure so long as it does not adversely impact priorities identified in the Executive Budget Request for FY 2026.

The permitting process is often time-consuming due to the understaffing of resource-constrained agencies, the complexity and multiplicity of requirements, the sequential and contingent nature of reviews, and the potential for legal challenges, among other things. The entitlement and permitting process can take over five years, creating significant delays and uncertainty for housing projects, increasing carrying costs and capital market risks, and deterring investment in affordable housing.

HHFDC is named as a member of the task force and supports efforts to streamline the permitting process across various government agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 28, 2025
10:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB 1406, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee:

I am in support of HB 1406, HD1, SD1 which seeks to establish the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification within the House of Representatives, to include a representative from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, among others. This initiative is a significant step toward streamlining the permitting process across various government agencies in Hawai'i.

The current permitting system can often be complex and time-consuming, posing challenges for businesses and individuals alike. By creating this task force, HB 1406, HD1, SD1 aims to identify inefficiencies and develop strategies to simplify and expedite the permitting process. This will not only enhance governmental efficiency but also foster a more business-friendly environment, encouraging economic growth and development within our state.

Moreover, a simplified permitting process can lead to increased transparency and accessibility, ensuring that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of requirements and procedures. This is particularly beneficial for small businesses and entrepreneurs who may lack the resources to navigate a convoluted system.

In conclusion, I believe that HB1406, HD1, SD1 represents a proactive approach to improving our state's permitting system. I urge the committee to pass this bill, as it will contribute to a more efficient, transparent, and supportive environment for businesses and residents in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

March 28, 2025
10:02 a.m.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 1406 HD1 SD1
Title: RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES.

Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to streamline state and intergovernmental permit processes by convening a task force for permit simplification.

In our regulatory oversight of public utilities, the Commission has heard firsthand how slow and/or convoluted permitting processes can negatively impact developers. In some cases, permit time alone can obstruct otherwise viable projects. The Commission is willing and able to commit staff time to attending and participating in this task force in the capacity outlined in the bill.

Particularly as it pertains to clean energy, the Commission would also suggest looking into how other states have addressed permit simplifications, such as in Massachusetts.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/commission-on-energy-infrastructure-siting-and-permitting>

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1406, HD1, SD1, Relating to Government Procedures

HEARING: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 10:02 a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1406, HD1, SD1, which establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes. Appropriates funds.

Housing is impacted by numerous state-level permits, such as Special Management Area permits, Land Use Commission district boundary amendments, individual wastewater system permits from the Department of Health, State Historic Preservation Division reviews for historic properties, approvals from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for affordable housing projects, and permits from the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

At the county level, according to the 2024 UHERO's Hawaii Housing Factbook¹, Hawaii's permitting process takes nearly three times longer than in other states, despite efforts by counties to improve efficiency. Processing times for single-family home permits on average range from 141 days in Hawaii County to 315 days in Kauai County. For multifamily housing projects, approvals take even longer—318 days in Hawaii County and up to 427 days in Kauai County. In addition, the City & County of Honolulu faces a significant backlog, further delaying both residential and commercial projects.² These delays can significantly increase project costs, create uncertainty, and slow or disincentivizes the construction of much needed housing. As time passes, rising interest

¹ UHERO. (May 20, 2024). The Hawai'i Housing Factbook. <https://uhero.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HawaiiHousingFactbook2024.pdf>

² Blair, Marcel. (December 12, 2023). "Honolulu's Building Permit Delays: A Nightmare Decades in the Making." Honolulu Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/honolulus-building-permit-delays-a-nightmare-decades-in-the-making/>.



 808-733-7060

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

 808-737-4977

rates, increasing material or labor costs, and other market factors can render previously viable projects financially unfeasible.

As such, HAR supports efforts to streamline, expedite, and improve efficiency in the various permitting processes to help address Hawaii's housing challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris
Managing Director

March 28, 2025
10:02 am

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology and House Committee on Tourism

CR 211 & Videoconference

Re: HB1406 HD1 SD1- Relating to Government Procedures

The Ironworkers Stabilization Fund in strong support of HB1406 establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes. Appropriates funds. Creating this working group is a crucial step in understanding the complex relationship between tourism and the potential introduction of legalized gaming in Hawaii with proposed amendments

A comprehensive and thoughtful approach is essential when considering such a significant policy shift. This working group will provide a valuable forum for stakeholders to discuss the potential impacts – both positive and negative – of our state's economy, communities, and existing construction industry. The required report to the Legislature will ensure transparency and inform data-driven decision-making.

Furthermore, we propose an amendment to add

“an individual having knowledge, experience, and expertise in the area of labor;”

on the task force. Labor organizations, like ours, have a unique understanding of the needs of our communities and the potential impacts of this new on working families.

Our members are often the ones who build the infrastructure associated with such projects, and therefore have a vested interest in their responsible development.

Including labor's perspective is vital for several reasons: Labor organizations can advocate for responsible development practices that prioritize worker safety, fair wages, and community well-being.

Including labor's voice in this process will ensure that any decisions regarding permitting are made with the best interests of Hawaii's workers and communities in mind. I urge the committee to approve HB1406 with the proposed amendment. Thank you.

T. George Paris
Managing Director



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e:
info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 28, 2025

TIME: 10:02am

RE: HB1406 HD1 SD1 Relating to Government Procedures
Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Many businesses, including those in the food industry, have endured unnecessary delays and added expenses as a result of the permitting process. This includes businesses like food and drink manufacturers that want to build new facilities and expand production, and food retailers that want to install energy generation and storage systems. Fixing the permitting process will promote economic growth and diversification, and have other positive impacts for businesses and our state. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Friday, March 28, 2025, at 10:02AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

RE: HB1406 HD1 SD1 Relating to Government Procedures

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 1406 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 (HB1406 HD1 SD1), which establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes.

HB1406 HD1 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Small Business. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Hawaii's complex and often lengthy development permitting processes can delay vital economic initiatives and hinder business growth. To address these challenges, this measure creates an intergovernmental task force housed within the House of Representatives that will identify actions taken, obstacles encountered, and necessary legislative proposals to streamline and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit procedures. By bringing together representatives from multiple governmental agencies—ranging from the Office of the Governor to the county planning departments—the task force aims to foster collaboration, reduce bureaucratic barriers, and provide clear pathways for project approvals.

Through a coordinated, interagency approach and dedicated funding for staffing and administrative support, the task force will serve as a practical mechanism to eliminate redundancies and expedite the permit process, ultimately boosting economic development and facilitating private-sector investments. In doing so, it strengthens Hawaii's business environment and ensures that new projects—particularly those in housing, renewable energy, and infrastructure—can move forward more efficiently. The Chamber supports this measure because it promotes economic vitality, encourages investment, and streamlines regulatory processes for the benefit of businesses and communities.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 1406 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 28, 2025, 10:02 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: HB1406 HD1 SD1 — RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute **supports** [HB1406 HD1 SD1](#), which would establish the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification with the goal of identifying and analyzing ways to streamline and coordinate state and intergovernmental permit processes.

This bill deserves praise for encouraging thoughtful permitting reform.

In addition to slowing housing growth, Hawaii's notorious permit delays add significantly to the price of housing in our state. According to "The Hawai'i Housing Factbook," produced by The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, the median permit processing time between mid-2018 and mid-2023 across the state was 161 days.¹

A recent report from the Grassroot Institute, "[Seven low cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," provides a potential road map for commonsense permit reform.² In particular, it suggests that the task force consider increasing permit exemptions, utilizing third-party approvals and adopting a meaningful "shot clock."

¹ Justin Tyndall, Daniela Bond-Smith and Rachel Inafuku, "[The Hawai'i Housing Factbook](#)," The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, June 28, 2023, p. 19.

² Jonathan Helton, "[Seven low cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, October 2024, p. 14.

The task force should also consider implementing a program that would grandfather existing dwellings that were built without permits.

It might be possible to reduce permitting delays with more staff or better software, but ultimately, only reform of the permitting regulations themselves will make lasting inroads into resolving our housing crisis.

We urge the Committee to pass HB1406.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of strategic campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

March 28, 2025

TO: Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
RE: HB1406 HD1 SD1, Relating to Government Procedures

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

We support HB 1406 HD1 SD1.

At the state level, inefficient and/or antiquated permitting processing systems across departments create delays, fostering distrust and impeding the realization of affordable workforce housing projects.

The Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification will convene relevant agencies and branches across state government to engage in seemingly mundane—but fundamentally crucial—conversations about their permitting processes and procedures.

If it is not already clear to those stakeholders outlined in HB1406, their roles are critically interconnected, if not conflicting, for those people navigating their permitting policies and procedures.

Fewer delays, greater efficiency, and increased government transparency are needed to increase affordable workforce housing inventory across our islands. The task force will identify obstacles and provide tangible policy solutions for the State Legislature's consideration.

Let's advance HB 1406 HD1 SD1.

Thank you,



Lee Wang
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future
lee@hawaiifuture.org



Perry Arrasmith
Director of Policy
Housing Hawai'i's Future
perry@hawaiifuture.org



Charter Communications
Testimony of Rebecca Lieberman, Director of Government Affairs

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hawaii State Capitol
Friday, March 28, 2025

SUPPORT FOR H.B. 1406, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1406, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which establishes an intergovernmental task force for permit simplification to streamline development permit processes.

As the largest broadband provider in the state, Charter understands the challenges businesses face due to complex and time-consuming permitting processes. Streamlining these procedures will not only benefit economic development but also accelerate the deployment and repair of critical broadband infrastructure, ensuring more communities have access to high-speed internet. Charter believes that every Hawaii resident should have reliable access to the Internet. An efficient permitting process will allow us to continue to help bring the benefits of broadband and access to the internet to those who need it most without unnecessary delays. Additionally, this measure will also support the ongoing recovery efforts in Lahaina by expediting permitting and infrastructure development, ensuring that the community can rebuild efficiently with improved connectivity and essential services.

We appreciate the bill's focus on collaboration across government agencies to identify and address inefficiencies. Charter looks forward to working with the task force to improve connectivity across the state.

In 2024, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 7,000 homes and small businesses in Hawaii, investing \$100 million across the state. Charter participated in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which helped connect over 59,000 eligible households in Hawaii with high-speed broadband. Broadband internet access is more important than ever and Charter offers a variety of affordable high-speed internet packages to meet all the connectivity and budget needs of our customers. With Spectrum Internet Assist, qualifying low-income families and seniors can receive high-speed internet for only \$15 per month.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1406, H.D. 1, S.D 1.



Written Statement of
Jeannine Souki
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
March 28, 2025, 10:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR:

H.B. 1406, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee

Re: **Testimony providing support for HB1406, HD1 SD1**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1406, HD1, SD1, which aims to streamline the state and intergovernmental development permitting process.

Hawaiian Telcom supports the intent of this measure, as Hawai‘i’s state and county permitting processes are more challenging, time-consuming, and costly than those in other states, causing significant delays to essential projects. This bill seeks to address these onerous procedures by establishing a task force within the House of Representatives to streamline permitting and propose legislative initiatives for a more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly experience, ultimately boosting economic development for our state.

Since Congress approved \$65 billion in 2021 to provide states and U.S. territories with federal grants to close the digital divide through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) programs, the State of Hawai‘i has been awarded over \$300 million in federal funding. This funding will be matched with state and private sector investments to build broadband infrastructure and deliver high-speed internet services across the state. Additionally, Hawaiian Telcom was one of 36 projects awarded a highly competitive federal Middle Mile Grant to build a new interisland broadband fiber cable connecting Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i. These federal projects share a highly defined timeline for delivering services, which must contend with the complexities of our state and intergovernmental permitting processes. Streamlining regulations, including permitting, will help stimulate and maximize private and public sector investments in constructing fiber-enabled broadband networks.



While these federal dollars provide a temporary infusion of funding for broadband infrastructure and services, the investments will yield significant economic and technological benefits for our state for generations. They will enhance the capacity and resiliency of our broadband networks and extend broadband connectivity throughout the state.

Hawaiian Telcom supports initiatives like this to improve state and intergovernmental development permitting processes. We stand ready to work with your committee, other state and county agencies, and stakeholders to solve long-standing issues and enable greater economic competitiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1406, HD1, SD1.



March 28, 2025

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

RE: HB1406, HD1, SD1 Relating to Government Procedures

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee –

My name is Dan Haire, President and CEO of Navian Hawaii. Navian appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB1406, HD1, SD1 Relating to Government Procedures. HB1406 establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes.

Hawai'i is undergoing a major demographic shift, with a rapidly aging population that will have profound implications for our healthcare infrastructure. In 2023, over 21% of Hawai'i's residents were aged 65 and older – a proportion that has been increasing and is projected to reach one in four by 2035. The fastest-growing segment includes those over 80 years old, a group that will require intensive levels of care, including skilled nursing, palliative, and hospice services.

As this trend continues, Hawai'i will face a dramatic rise in demand for inpatient and residential care facilities. Yet at present, constructing such facilities is exceptionally difficult due in large part to delays in the permitting process. One of our projects, at 1221 Gulick Ave, is expected to be stuck around two years in Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting, critically delaying potentially dozens of beds from servicing our kūpuna. As our industry works to significantly increase the availability of beds, the problem will only worsen.

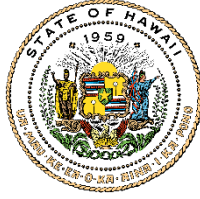
This measure is a critical first step in addressing systemic inefficiencies. By convening stakeholders and beginning a focused conversation on how to streamline permitting, this task force can help lay the groundwork for meaningful reforms. If Hawai'i is to meet the needs of its aging population with compassion and foresight, improving the efficiency of our permitting system must be part of the solution.

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. The name "Navian" blends "Navigator" and "Guardian," reflecting our mission to guide individuals and their families through the physical and emotional challenges that often accompany aging and serious illness.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS & MEANS
Friday, March 28, 2025
10:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1406, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES**

House Bill 1406, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 establishes an Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification within the House of Representatives, to include a representative from the State Historic Preservation Division (Division). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The framework for a comprehensive statewide historic preservation program in Hawai'i is established under Chapter 6E, HRS. The historic preservation program requirements identified at 6E-42, HRS, address the Division's responsibilities when completing historic preservation reviews for projects that require permits. These historic preservation reviews can add time to the permit approval process; in many cases because submittals are incomplete or include inaccurate information. The proposed task force within this measure may help to better identify such issues as well as how to resolve them in such a way that expedites the permit process. To that end, the Department and Division are happy to participate in such a task force. Furthermore, the Division recommends that if such a task force is established, that the County representatives reach out to their respective Certified Local Government program staff and the county Cultural Resource Commission members in order to benefit from their local knowledge and expertise in both historic preservation and 6E, HRS relate permitting issues within their communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.