



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
February 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Jan Gouveia

Vice President for Administration  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 331 HD1 – RELATING TO PERMITS

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 331 HD1.

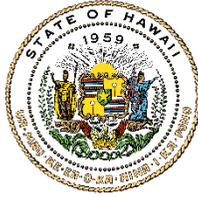
HB 331 HD1 establishes an exemption from any county permit requirement for certain routine, repetitive, and minor repair and maintenance construction projects for facilities under the control of any state department, except for any floodplain management requirements or standards. It further precludes the counties from requiring any off-site improvements for any contract for the construction, renovation or repair of facilities under the control of the Department of Education, University of Hawai'i or School Facilities Authority.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the measure and looks forward to working with the respective counties on its implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 331 HD1.

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  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Thursday, February 6, 2025  
2:00 PM

House Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 331, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PERMITS

House Bill 331, House Draft 1, establishes an exemption from applicable county permit requirements for any state department or agency for repetitive construction projects to accelerate the timeline for essential repairs and improvements to facilities under the control of any state department or agency while addressing critical infrastructure needs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

Chapter 6E, HRS, sets forth the framework for a comprehensive statewide historic preservation program in Hawai'i. A key part of that program is the historic preservation review of projects that have the potential to affect historic properties, as required by sections 6E-8, 6E-10, 6E-42, and 6E-43, HRS. Facilities under the control of a state department or agency may be required to submit a project to the Historic Preservation division multiple times in order to satisfy the historic preservation review provisions found throughout 6E, HRS. Exempting facilities under the control of any state department or agency, as outlined within the proposed bill, would also indirectly exempt such projects from 6E-42, HRS historic preservation review; which would minimize the number of times a project would be subject to historic preservation review, in accordance with 6E, HRS. Furthermore, the project types that are exempted by this bill fall under the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and best preservation practices and have low or no chance of effecting historic properties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/06/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Consumer Protection &  
Commerce

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** HB 0331, HD1 RELATING TO PERMITS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes an exemption from applicable county permit requirements for repetitive construction projects for facilities under the control of any state department or agency, under certain conditions. Clarifies that, except for projects in special flood hazard areas, contracts for the construction, renovation, or repair of facilities under the control of the Department of Education, University of Hawaii, or School Facilities Authority shall be exempt from county permitting requirements that related off-site improvements be made by the contracting government agency as a condition to the issuance of any permit. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 331, HD1.

This bill has been revised under HD1 to define "repetitive construction project" in Section 2, Chapter 46 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding county permit exemptions. This definition will help achieve the intent of allowing county permit exemptions for minor construction activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 331, HD1.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
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**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



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February 6, 2025

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 331, HD 1: Relating to Permits

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is opposed to House Bill (HB) 331, House Draft (HD) 1, which establishes an exemption from applicable county permit requirements for repetitive construction projects for facilities under the control of any state department or agency, under certain conditions.

The BWS has concerns regarding exempting repetitive construction projects for facilities under the control of the Department of Education, University of Hawaii, or School Facilities Authority ("state facilities"). The BWS uses the City's building permit review process to ensure that any cross-connection control hazards are identified on the building permit construction plan and are properly addressed. The BWS review process is intended to ensure that the existing backflow prevention assemblies for the proposed project are tested and functioning properly as part of BWS's annual backflow prevention assembly testing program. Inspection of facilities are an integral part of the BWS Cross-Connection Control Section. It is important to ensure all cross-connection control hazards are addressed accordingly within a facility.

The BWS review process includes ensuring these state facilities have adequate off-site fire protection and water pressure from our water system. For older school buildings, adequate fire protection may be an issue. Thus, the main concern would be the water system availability and assessing impact fees without a permitting process.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify in opposition on HB 331, HD1.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

RIKI FUJITANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

## House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Thursday, February 6, 2025  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329

### House Bill 331, House Draft 1, Relating to Permits

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports the intent** of House Bill 331, House Draft 1, which would establish an exemption from applicable county permit requirements for repetitive construction projects for facilities under the control of any state department or agency, under certain conditions, and clarify that contracts for the construction, renovation, or repair of facilities under the control of the Department of Education (DOE) or SFA shall be exempt from county permitting requirements that related off-site improvements be made by the contracting government agency as a condition to the issuance of any permit.

We believe this measure could help streamline the SFA's prekindergarten expansion program. Part of SFA's prekindergarten expansion efforts include renovating existing DOE classrooms into public prekindergarten classrooms. To ensure this bill would clarify that county permits are not needed for these kinds of projects, potentially making the prekindergarten classroom renovations more efficient, we recommend a change to the measure.

We propose adding "minor renovations" to the definition of "repetitive construction project" so that HRS §46- (b) would read, "For the purposes of this section, "repetitive construction project" means a construction project that consists of one-for-one replacements, **minor renovations**, or minor repair and maintenance, does not increase the plumbing or electrical demand, and does not require engagement with external agencies."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani

Executive Director

Feb. 6, 2025, 2 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

**To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**  
**Rep. Scot Matayoshi, Chair**  
**Rep. Cory Chun, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**  
**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: HB331 HD1 — RELATING TO PERMITS

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Chun and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB331 HD1](#), which would exempt “repetitive construction projects” on facilities under the control of state departments and agencies from requiring county building permits, with some exceptions for flood zone rules, electrical and plumbing permits.

By exempting state projects from the need to get a permit for basic maintenance, county building reviewers would have more time to focus on private construction, including much-needed housing, which would improve the building permit process for everyone.

The bill might also speed up the delivery of state projects, which could make capital improvement budgets go further. According to the Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance’s Variance Report, the School Facilities Authority aimed to complete 23 projects in fiscal year 2024 but completed only 11.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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<sup>1</sup> [“Variance Report: Formal Education, Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025,”](#) Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance, Dec. 3, 2024, Program title: School Facilities Authority, p. 494.

**LATE**

**HB-331-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:47:55 AM  
Testimony for CPC on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaiian Islands Republican Women	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted in support of HB 331.

**HB-331-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:47:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I do not support HB331 HD1.

The permitting process is meant to ensure projects are done properly and to code. There are too many inept contractors and corners cut by many to allow exemptions.

Please pass legislation to ensure that DPP is properly staffed, and that they administer their permitting process properly and ethically, as there are still major issues, concerns with pay-to-play, and more news stories to come.

Gregory Misakian

**LATE**

**HB-331-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:15:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Makes sense to speed up minor, similar repairs at State education sites by exempting them from county permitting.

I support the bill and urge its passage.

Daniel C. Smith

Pearl City

**LATE**

**HB-331-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:22:14 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Flora Obayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT existing permit exemptions with State agencies AND ensuring that DOE, UH, and School Facilities Authority facilities are exempt from county permits for one-to-one and repetitive repair and minor renovation projects to address critical infrastructure needs statewide.