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BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Testimony to the Honolulu City Council  
**HONORABLE ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR**  
Wednesday, September 2, 2015  
10:00 a.m.  
City Council Chamber - Honolulu Hale

**RE: BILL 20 (2015), PROPOSED CD1, AMENDING THE LUO RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**

Chair Martin, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Council:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii is in **strong support** of Bill 20 (2015), Proposed CD1, which proposes to amend the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) to establish accessory dwelling units as a permitted use in all residential zoning districts, to encourage and accommodate the construction of accessory dwelling units, increase the number of affordable rental units and alleviate the housing shortage in the City, and to establish land use standards for those accessory dwelling units.

Oahu's population is projected to increase by almost 122,000 by 2030, but we are building homes at the lowest rate since WWII. DBEDT estimates that approximately 5,000 new units are needed **annually** to accommodate new housing formations at existing density. Yet, in 2014, the Department of Permitting and Planning issued just over 1,800 building permits for single-family homes (unclear whether they were new addresses or rebuilds). Combine these statistics with the median home price of \$700,000, and we will not have a sustainable future. If we want the next generation, and the generation after that, to be able to afford their own homes, the supply of housing must be increased **at all price points** to help slow the acceleration of housing prices and to foster a healthy housing market.

We strongly urge this Council to look favorably on the proposed legislation as it will increase the overall supply of housing in our already severely constricted market. It also is consistent with the goal of increasing the density in the urban core to support future growth. As long as the adequate infrastructure is in place to support the increased density, providing more housing opportunities in already developed communities is a logical choice.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our **strong support**.