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P5, Bill 11



**Honolulu Tile & Marble, Inc.**

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March 15, 2016

Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Chair  
Honolulu City Council  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO BILL 11 (2016), REGULATING FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS IN THE AREA COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS AIEA, RED HILL, MOANALUA AND SALT LAKE IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Regular City County Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Martin, Vice Chair Anderson and Councilmembers,

HONOLULU TILE & MARBLE, INC. is opposed to Bill 11, which proposes stop the issuance of grading and/or building permits in the Aiea, Red Hill, Moanalua and Salt Lake area to allow the City Administration and the City Council time to study and implement transportation improvements to mitigate the traffic congestion in the stated area. This measure is not necessary because putting a hold on construction will not alleviate the traffic concerns of the major roadways like the H-1 and the Moanalua Highway.

Proponents of the bill indicate that traffic congestion has worsen over the years and that existing traffic conditions are negatively affecting the commute time and the lives of the residents. They say that businesses in the Aiea, Red Hill, Moanalua and Salt Lake area are also being affected. Creating new home and facilities in the area will not adversely affect traffic in the area. The real problem is with the existing traffic as people past through the area while commuting to/from urban part of the Honolulu to/from the rural parts. Secondly, construction activity has picked up in the past few years and is continuing to grow. Putting a hold on the construction will negatively affect the construction industry. Furthermore, it is not specific on the duration of this moratorium. It will be a while before the City, State and the Federal governments can come to together to study the traffic conditions and implement a plan.

Bill 11 would also delay the construction of the Moanalua Hillside Apartments (MHA) **affordable workforce housing** which are desperately needed by the local community. Affordable housing in the entire state is such a major problem so we need to support projects like MHA and not delay them. The passing of Bill 11 could discourage MHA's developer and other developers from investing their resources to affordable units and take their investments totally out of Hawaii. The end result will be less affordable housing inventory and higher prices for all of us.

For these reasons, HONOLULU TILE & MARBLE, INC. cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Frank Hedani  
President

MISC. COM. 674

PH