

Bill 64
Additional Testimony



August 15, 2018

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Honorable Ernest Martin, Chair and Presiding Officer
Honolulu City Council,
City Council Chambers
City Hall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Martin, Vice Chair Pine and members of the Council,

Subject: Testimony on Bill No. 64, RELATING TO BUILDING PERMITS

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO 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 is in strong support of Bill No. 64 which proposes to allow for an expedited process for building permits for one- and two-family dwellings. The bill provides for a 60 processing time for the issuance of building permits for one and two family dwellings under certain conditions.

As we have stated in many of our prior testimonies, the Building Permit process should focus on compliance with the Building Code as the codes are there to protect public health and safety. Moreover, even if the City issues a building permit for work not compliant with the codes, the City is not liable. The responsibility or liability rests with the owner/designer/contractor. The issuance of a building permit should be "ministerial". The Department should develop standards, guidelines, and/or a check list of all of the items that must be included on the plans when being submitted for a building permit. If all items are contained in the submission, and the applicant pays the building permit fee, the permit should be issued immediately, over the counter.

The City should focus on the inspection process during and after construction to insure compliance with the Building Codes. If not in compliance, then the City should require the owner to take steps to cure the violation, and if not cured, the City should revoke the permit and have all improvements removed from the property.

We are in strong support of Bill No. 64, and appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this bill.