

Bill 64 (2018)
Additional Testimony



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November 6, 2018

RE: Support with Amendments – Bill 64, CD1

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Hawaiian Community Assets, a nonprofit HUD-approved housing counseling agency and member of the Partners in Housing alliance, to submit our testimony in support of Bill 64 proposed CD1 with a suggested amendment.

As the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency, our organization is keenly aware of the struggles experienced by our low- and moderate-income homebuyers in particular the delays in the permitting process. Our families often work with Habitat for Humanity and other self-help housing organizations to realize the dream of homeownership. While Bill 64 would ensure timely processing of permits for these families and lessen the cost on our nonprofit developer partners, our organization suggests amending the bill to give priority order to single family homes at or below \$350,000. This small change in the language would not only reaffirm the City's commitment to affordable homeownership opportunities for our local workers and working families, but it would result in cost savings for our nonprofit developer partners so they are better positioned to build additional, affordable for-sale units for our families most in-need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Bill 64 proposed CD1 with the suggested amendment. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director



Building strength and stability through shelter

November 6, 2018

RE Support with Amendments – Bill 64, CD1

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I'm writing on behalf of Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association, a non-profit state support organization, supporting two direct service Habitat organizations on Oahu – Habitat for Humanity Leeward Oahu and Honolulu Habitat for Humanity. I am also a member of the Partners in Housing alliance, currently under development. I support Bill 64 proposed CD1 with a suggested amendment.

Habitat for Humanity has been present in Hawaii since 1988 and has built over 500 single family homes across the state in partnership with low income families earning \$30,000 to \$70,000 per year. Our self-help program includes sweat equity by the families and construction labor by volunteers, which helps reduce the cost of the homes so that our partner families can afford to own their homes, with monthly payments at or below 30% of their income. We work with organizations like Hawaiian Community Assets, the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency, to assure that Habitat partner families are financially prepared for homeownership.

Bill 64 will help our Habitat organizations build more capacity to further address the need for homes for Oahu's struggling and hard-working families. We would like to suggest that an amendment to this bill be made to give priority order to single family homes at or below \$350,000. This small change in the language would not only reaffirm the City's commitment to affordable homeownership opportunities for our local workers and working families, but it would result in cost savings for our nonprofit developer partners so they are better positioned to build additional, affordable for-sale units for our families most in-need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Bill 64 proposed CD1 with our suggested amendment. Please contact me with any questions!

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Lilley".

Jean Lilley
Executive Director



"Locally Owned & Operated in Hawaii Since 1961"

99 134 Waiua Way, Aiea, HI 96701

November 5, 2018

Honorable Kimberly Pine, Chair
Committee on Zoning and Housing
Honolulu City Council
Committee Room
City Hall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Pine, Vice Chair Ozawa and members of the committee:

Re: Testimony in Support of Bill No. 64, CD1 Relating to Building Permits

My name is Anthony Borge and I am a board member on the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. Today however, I am submitting testimony as a small business. RMA Sales is a locally owned, small business manufacturing and distributing louver jalousie windows, storm/security doors, screens and ancillary products here in Hawaii since 1961.

The current building permit process is flawed and fails to deliver on the intent of the Building Code in a reasonable, timely manner. My direct involvement in the building industry over the last 12 years has seen the permitting process increase in the length of time a building permit takes from submittal to approval. The intent of the Building Codes are to protect and ensure public health and safety which we all agree on. It is the permitting process that needs to be fixed.

Delays in the building permit process does not only have a direct negative economic effect on the building contractor and the owner. It also reverberates downline, having a negative economic effect on architects, engineers, professionals, specialty contractors, material suppliers, manufacturers, restaurants, retailers, other ancillary businesses, communities and finally the people.

The fix to the problem is **Bill No. 64, CD1**, which we **strongly support** and ask for your support on as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Borge
RMA Sales
99-134 Waiua Way
Aiea, HI 96701

November 7, 2018



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Honorable Kymberly Pine, Chair
Committee on Zoning and Housing
Honolulu City Council
City Council Chambers
City Hall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3077

Dear Chair Pine, Vice Chair Ozawa, and members of the Committee,

Subject: Testimony on Bill No. 64, CD 1, 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, CD 1, which proposes to allow for an expedited process for building permits for one- and two-family dwellings. The bill provides for a 60 day processing time for the issuance of building permits for one and two family dwellings under certain conditions.

We understand that the present process requires the Plan Checkers at the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to check the plans submitted for "compliance with all applicable building codes". Subsequent inspection by the DPP building inspectors during construction, is to insure the construction is being done in accordance with the approved set of plans.

The intent of Bill 64 is to "change the building permit process". If the plans meet the required standards, and are stamped by a license professional architect and/or engineer, the building permit should be issued "ministerially" over the counter. Compliance with the various building codes should be done during the construction inspection process. 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.

The delays in the issuance of residential building permits has caused severe economic impacts on not only our members but also to families seeking to improve their homes, usually to provide multi-generational housing for their families. The permitting process needs to be fixed immediately to prevent further hardship on our members and their clients.

Finally, 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.

We are in strong support of Bill No. 64, CD 1, and appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this bill.