

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development & Technology
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 1672 Relating to Historic Structures

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

On behalf of our 9,600 members in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (HAR) **strongly supports** S.B. 1672 which amends Act 228, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2008. S.B. 1672 would amend Act 228 to allow the use of any photographic format. Further, the requirements of the Act would only apply in the cases of demolition or major alteration.

Act 228 was intended to preserve bona-fide historic buildings, especially in light of structures that have been recently demolished such as the Varsity Theatre on University Avenue.

Unfortunately, Act 228 created unintended consequences by requiring that for all properties 50 years or older one must submit archival quality photographs to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) prior to the issuance of a permit.

S.B. 1672 is the result of the assistance of Senator Carol Fukunaga and Representative Ken Ito. S.B. 1672 is also the product of comments from various stakeholders. This bill will alleviate burdens placed on homeowners who do not intend to demolish or undertake major alterations.

HAR looks forward to participating in continued dialogue with stakeholders and legislators, and urges the passage of S.B. 1672 because it clarifies the true intent of Act 228.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.