

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi

Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 1352, S.D. 1 Relating to Bureau of Conveyances

Hearing date: Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (HAR) and its 9,600 members. HAR **supports S.B. 1352, S.D. 1** which transfers fee time share interest from the Land Court system to the Regular system, establishes an employer-employee working group to facilitate the changes to the system, authorizes a recording fee for Bureau of conveyance transactions, and establishes a pilot program to implement electronic recording of fee time share interests.

The Land Court was originally designed to accommodate individually owned properties. Timeshares, however, are comprised of multiple fee owners for each property. This, together with the development of new timeshare condominiums and converted condominium hotels, has created a significant backlog in the Land Court System.

HAR believes that the transfer of fee simple time share interests from the Land Court System to the Regular System and acceptance of electronic signatures will make the Bureau of Conveyance more efficient, and ultimately, benefit the real estate industry and consumers.

HAR further notes that it generally supports the changes made in S.B. 1352, S.D. 1, but takes no position at this time on the authorization for the Bureau of Conveyances to charge additional fees for deregistration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.