

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development
and Technology
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 520, H.D. 1 Relating to Buildings

HEARING DATE: Friday, March 20, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director for the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), here to testify on behalf of our 9,600 members in Hawai'i. HAR supports H.B. 520, H.D. 1, which repeals the amendments made by Act 228, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, which require the taking of photographs of actual or potential historic buildings before demolition, construction, or alteration of the buildings.

HAR's believes that the burdensome permit requirements placed on homeowners, businesses, and industries under Act 228 needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Accordingly, HAR supports the repeal of the Act to provide immediate relief to those who have been adversely impacted. HAR also supports continued discussions, to advance effective and workable legislation.

HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.