

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 417 RELATING TO CONTRACTORS**

Chair Keohokaloe, Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Candace Ito, and I am the Executive Officer of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to establish as a class B felony the unlicensed performance of contractor work, during or within 5 years following a national emergency, state of emergency, or disaster proclamation, in an affected political subdivision.

The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 21, 2025. This measure will control and abate the unlawful activities of unlicensed contractors. The Board has supported measures that enhances its ability to protect consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

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February 5, 2025

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Testimony To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: S.B. 417 – RELATING TO CONTRACTORS.

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii and we support this bill. The SAH represents the following ten separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL AND AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

HAWAII ARCHITECTURAL GLASS AND METAL ASSOCIATION

Our members have longed complained about the prevalence of unlicensed contractors. This seems to be particularly true anytime our state experiences some sort of disaster. Some of this is because not all states require contractor licensing, so subcontractors come here with "dollar signs in their eyes" thinking all they have to do is sell and perform contracts.

There are, however, a good many of them that are well aware of the fact that a license is required to do almost any construction work however, homeowners are often not aware that it requires a license to do subcontracting work and they enter into contracts purely based upon the cheapest price as opposed to the best job.

It is perhaps with such an enhanced penalty as a Class B felony that would deter unlicensed contractors and further help to advise and educate consumers as to the severity of the offense.

Based on that we can endorse this bill.

Thank you.