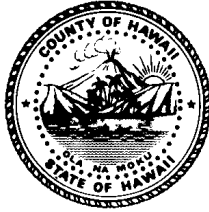


Harry Kim
Mayor



David Yamamoto, P.E.
Director

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Allan G. Simeon, P.E.
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
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February 3, 2020

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in opposition to SB2937

Dear Chairs and members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of SB2937. The Hawai'i County Department of Public Works (DPW) opposes the proposed bill that will require the counties to establish a procedure ensuring that an asbestos survey and any necessary abatement are performed prior to the issuance of any permit for the renovation or demolition of a residential property.

This bill will only add to the delays for obtaining a building permit, an already lengthy process that the County is dedicated to streamlining and shortening. Not only does it add another layer of bureaucracy to current Department of Health requirements already in place, it places an unfunded mandate on the County to authenticate and archive/record asbestos surveys and abatement submittals.

Oftentimes, owners take out building permits only to realize after the fact that they cannot afford the work. By requiring documentation showing that necessary abatement has been done prior to the issuance of a building permit, it would force residents to spend additional monies upfront. Furthermore, in situations requiring a full demolition, the asbestos abatement may even be considered a violation if a sizable amount of the abatement work is done without a building permit.

The safety of our community is, and always will be, DPW's top priority. We are not in opposition of asbestos management requirements, only that a survey and abatement be required prior to the issuance of a building permit. In some situations this may even overlook when building permits include asbestos abatement work.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit opposition of SB2937.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Matsumoto, P.E.
Acting Building Chief,
Hawai'i County Department of Public Works, Building Division

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

State Capitol, Room 229

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2937, Relating to Residential Property

HEARING: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Joint Committees,

I am Ken Hiraki, Director of Government Affairs, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 10,000 members. HAR **opposes** S.B. 2937 which requires each county to establish a procedure to ensure that an asbestos survey and any necessary abatement are performed prior to the issuance of any permit for the renovation or demolition of a residential property

There are two categories of asbestos. Friable asbestos is asbestos that can be broken with minimal force. On the other hand, non-friable asbestos is safely locked into the material, which can be found in such things as roofing, flooring and tile.

Under this measure, a survey and abatement would be required prior to the issuance of any permit for any renovation of residential property. This measure would severely add to the delay of the permitting process, including those properties requiring emergency work, such as damage to a retaining wall.

Furthermore, there is a shortage of asbestos surveyors. This would be an additional delay to the permitting process.

Additionally, this measure is overly broad in that a property owner could be doing work on the outside of the property and the asbestos could be inside the home, such as in popcorn ceilings. Additionally, the asbestos could be non-friable, but still require a survey and abatement.

Finally, an asbestos survey and abatement are expensive. This measure could encourage property owners to forego the permitting process due to the added costs associated with this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2937

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 1:54:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-2937

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:00:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



February 3, 2020

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

RE: SB2937

LATE

Dear Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization who works to keep building materials out of the landfill and provide them to the community as an affordable resource. We perform "Deconstruction" as an alternative to conventional demolition. Our crews disassemble buildings in the opposite order that they were constructed in order to salvage and recycle as much material as possible.

We are glad to see this proposed legislation, as proper asbestos protocol is very important to our operation and we often see it overlooked by others in the industry. Requiring asbestos survey and necessary abatement is standard procedure in other states and is an important way to make sure that this hazardous material is handled and disposed of correctly.

In our work, we see many sites with "popcorn" ceiling and sheet vinyl that contain relatively high levels of "friable" asbestos. Because the residential construction industry isn't currently required to inspect for asbestos, this dangerous material is often harming workers, homeowners and neighbors.

Hawai'i construction industry has many qualified asbestos survey and abatement companies since commercial and military sectors follow proper asbestos handling.

Unfortunately, not all contractors handle asbestos in the right way on their own and this legislation will ensure health and safety as the older homes of Hawai'i are demolished and remodeled.

Re-use Hawai'i strongly supports SB2937.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director
Re-use Hawai'i