

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
9:15 a.m.  
Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1448, RELATING TO RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) increase the number of members composing the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects from fourteen to sixteen members; and (2) require one member to have at least five years of experience as an employee of a government agency.

The Board opposes this bill or any similar measure, which would increase the number of Board members. This bill does not provide any justification for increasing the number of Board members, nor does it specify the professional requirements for the second additional member. As the Committees are aware, the Board currently has fourteen members — the most board members of any board administratively attached to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (Division). Adding additional members to an already large board would create logistical difficulties and additional costs for the Division when facilitating meetings for the Board.

The Board's composition includes three public members. Finding individuals willing to serve as Board members can be difficult. The addition of a member with at least five years of experience as an employee of a government agency does not appear to offer any advantages towards greater consumer protection. Further, there is no current prohibition in law that would prevent government employees from applying or serving on this Board as either a licensed professional or a public member.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.