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**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND HOUSING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009 – 1:15 P.M. HEARING**

**TESTIMONY OF  
KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI,  
HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES VICE-PRESIDENT**

**ON SENATE BILL NO. 100, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Dear Chair Sakamoto and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council and as the Vice-President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) in support of SB 100. I am aware that the HSAC President, Nestor Garcia has submitted testimony in support of this measure which is included in the HSAC Legislative Package. I concur with the testimony submitted by the HSAC President and I strongly urge you to support this measure that will benefit all four counties of Hawai'i by extending the 45-day window to evaluate, approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove affordable housing projects 90 days. This will provide the counties with additional time to thoroughly review projects while still maintaining an expedited process.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

**DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI,  
Hawai'i State Association of Counties Vice-President**

LP



L A T E

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Via Capitol Website

February 4, 2009

**Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 1:15 p.m. in CR 225**

**Testimony in Opposition to SB 100: Relating to Housing  
(Expanding the 45-day window to approve affordable housing projects)**

Honorable Chair Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani  
and Members of the EDH Committee:

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide our testimony **in opposition to SB 100**, which would allow a county council ninety days (instead of the current 45 days) to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove a 201H affordable housing project. We would also respectfully request that the statute be amended to delete the provisions relating to "modifications" by the council, and limit the councils' actions to either approval or disapproval.

**Background.** The lack of affordable housing remains a significant problem affecting Hawaii. Finding ways to provide sufficient affordable housing and market housing for Hawaii's residents on a timely basis has been a major objective for our elected officials, and state and county agencies, and members of the housing industry and business community. With such a crisis, we should be trying to expedite the approval of affordable housing projects, instead of creating laws which would further delay such needed affordable housing.

According to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) the agency which processes the approval of 201H affordable housing projects, applications for affordable housing projects processed under Chapter 201H already undergo an extensive review process by state and county agencies and public, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Planning, public works, transportation, water, fire, parks, historic preservation, health, environmental and education have the opportunity to review, evaluate and discuss the project plans;
- The HHFDC also requires the affordable housing developer to conduct at least one public meeting to solicit community input and discussion on the proposed project;