



L A T E

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Via Capitol Website

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

**Testimony in Support of SB 901: Relating to Housing
(Faster Project Reviews for Mixed Use 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 support** of the SB 901, which stimulates the expeditious development of affordable housing using faster project reviews for mixed-use housing projects and related infrastructure projects.

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 has been a major objective for our elected officials, and state and county agencies, and members of the housing industry and business community. For the past two years, LURF has participated in a statewide task force comprised of representatives from all four counties, business, labor, developers, architects, nonprofit providers of services, the State, and the legislature, whose purpose was to identify, address and propose regulatory reform and solutions to remove the barriers to the production of affordable housing. **SB 901** is part of the legislative recommendations of that task force.

We urge this Committee to approve SB 901.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.