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HB 2152, RELATING TO BUILDING DESIGN FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR

WEDNESDAY 10, 2010 2:45 P.M. Conference Room 016

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Committee on Health. My name is ART FRANK from the Waianae Coast and I have been disabled over 32 years and very active in the community for nearly 30 years. I have been involved with DCAB for over 30 years and at this capitol as an activist for nearly 30 years. Prior to and after the passage of the American Disability Act (ADA) I've spoken to many building managers, business owners, state and city Directors/Administrators regarding accessibility for the disabled to their buildings or businesses. Although I could have, I never filed a lawsuit but instead I have always tried to talk people into complying with the ADA. Francine Wai of DCAB knows hundreds, if not thousands of lawsuits have been filed in this state due to non-compliance of ADA. Many were frivolous lawsuits filed by greedy lawyers. In this regard my concern is with the state and city government in non-compliance of ADA and consequently having to waste our taxes by tearing up their mistakes and doing it again. Though it's been years since I've had to complain to our government regarding ADA errors, I am still concerned that mistakes can still be made because people do not understand the necessity, or how to comply with the ADA. That's why we have DCAB to keep everybody on the straight and narrow so no mistakes are made that waste our tax money.

I realize the Administration is against raising the fee requested in this measure but the governor is looking in front her nose at saving us \$1.00, but not at the millions it could cost us tax payers in the future if DCAB cannot adequately do their jobs due to lack of funds. As a disabled person who has been involved all these years I feel strongly about HB 2152 so I ask this committee to please support this measure.

Mahalo nui loa.

ART FRANK.

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WAIANAE COAST