

For EET Decision Making 2/11/10  
From previous hearing

**DOWLING  
COMPANY, INC**

Bill No. 2451

Support Y N  X

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February 8, 2010

Hearing on HB2451, Relating to Net Zero Energy Capable Construction  
Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Dowling Company in support of House Bill No. 2451. Dowling Company is a Maui-based real estate development company that is committed to green building practices and sustainable development.

As Project Coordinator and LEED Accredited Professional, I support the general provisions of this bill. Net zero energy construction is a design feature that Dowling Company strives to incorporate in all of its projects, including residential and commercial construction. Offering expedited permitting for net-zero energy building projects will serve to increase the design and construction of buildings that produce as much energy as they consume and thus will serve to advance Hawaii's goal of energy independence. I applaud you for taking the initiative on this measure and ask that you vote in favor of its adoption, provided that you include a few clarifying statements described below.

I urge you to insert language that specifies expedited review by **reviewing agencies** in addition to expedited permit issuance by agencies that accept applications and issue permits. Without this added language, HB2451 will prove ineffective in incentivizing and thus increasing the construction of net-zero energy buildings.

Act 96 specifies that the Development Services Administration (DSA), which accepts building permit applications and issues building permits, is required to expedite permitting of LEED registered buildings. However, because DSA is not responsible for the review of building permits, Act 96 has had not been effective in expediting permit processing for LEED registered projects.

In conclusion, I urge you to add language to HB2451 that addresses the cause of slow approvals by specifically including agencies that review building permits, not only those that accept permit applications and issue building permits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Sincerely,

  
Tia Ferguson