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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Monday, March 28, 2016
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 211

RE: H.B. 2544 H.D. 2: Relating to Procurement.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA Hawaii **supports** H.B. 2544 H.D. 2, which would require the State Procurement Office, in conjunction with the Department of Accounting and General Services, to conduct an analysis and review of the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, specifically with regard to the awarding of construction contracts.

The procurement process is in need of improvement. Business and the public want an open, competitive and transparent procurement process. The procurement process must also be timely in the selection and payment for goods and services. In addition, the State is looking for the best value, not necessarily the lowest price.

We know of many small businesses in Hawaii that do not pursue work from the State of Hawaii because of the uncertainty and delays caused by the current procurement process.

We respectfully suggest that the proposed amendment include not only construction contracts but also contracts for planning and design services be issued pursuant to federal procurement laws. We support the proposed bill with our proposed amendments to include planning and design services with construction contracts.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for H.B. 2544 H.D. 2.