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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development & Technology Wednesday, February 4, 2015 2:45 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol - Conference Room 016

SUBJECT: S.B. 12 RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Slom, 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** S.B. 12, which proposes to entitle the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB) to a separate line item in the budget of the department of business, economic development, and tourism.

The SBRRB is essential to a healthy and nurturing environment for Hawaii's small businesses as it is the one check the public has on the administrative rule process by providing real-life feedback on the impact rules may have on small businesses, their employees, and their family members. Prior to each of their monthly meetings, this volunteer board spends countless hours reviewing rules and regulations to assess the impact they could have on small businesses in Hawaii's small businesses account for 96% of all employers in the state and employ over half of the state's private workforce. To date, the SBRRB has reviewed over 630 rules/regulations since its 1998 inception.

The aforementioned line item would provide this important board with a budget for staff support and travel expenses for their appointees from across the State, helping to increase their efficiency and allowing them to focus their attention on safeguarding small businesses throughout the State.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our views.