



STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement of **MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Friday, February 6, 2026, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

in consideration of
HB 2606
RELATING TO OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION.

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Housing,

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers the following comments on HB 2606**, which implements certain recommendations of the SPEED Task Force. Establishes and appropriates funds for a working group within the State Building Code Council to develop proposals for an off-site construction program.

HB 2606 is a direct outcome of the Building Permit (BP) Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), which operated under the State's Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Task Force. We would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the taskforce members, whose collaborative efforts have successfully identified innovative solutions to streamline development and remove systemic barriers that have long hindered the growth of our housing inventory.

Throughout discussions in the BP PIG, there was overwhelming support among stakeholders to explore the potential of off-site construction as a critical tool to address Hawai'i's ongoing housing crisis. By leveraging modular and prefabricated construction methods, the State can significantly reduce build times and lower costs, providing a necessary pathway to deliver units at the scale and speed required by our residents. The development of a formal off-site construction program is notably aligned with the Governor's current housing initiatives, which prioritize substantial, efficient actions to increase supply and ensure that Hawaiian families have access to affordable housing.

OPSD believes that a working group is an ideal mechanism for developing the specific proposals and regulatory frameworks needed for a successful off-site construction program. This approach ensures that we move forward in a sensible, well-planned, and deliberate manner, allowing for the thorough vetting of safety standards, labor considerations, and logistical requirements unique to our island geography. **OPSD stands ready to participate in this**

HB 2606 RELATING TO OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION - COMMENT

State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

February 6, 2026

working group and looks forward to collaborating with our partners to turn this potential into a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.



Modular Building Institute
285 Hydraulic Ridge Road, Suite 6
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901 USA

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Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Housing,

As the voice of the modular building industry, the Modular Building Institute (MBI) represents over 700 modular building industry participants across the United States and the world, including seven located in Hawai'i and dozens more that do business in the state.

MBI members work to address the housing, healthcare, education, and infrastructure needs of communities across America. Our members manufacture buildings to meet all state and local code in a controlled factory setting which enables these buildings to be completed faster than using traditional methods without sacrificing quality or safety. We are submitting this testimony on behalf of the industry in support of HB 2606.

Following the Lahaina wildfires, MBI members responded by constructing seven to 12 homes a week as part of the Kilohana Project.¹ Our industry learned several valuable lessons from this response effort. Top among them was the need for a robust, official, state-administered modular program.

Our members have expressed serious interest in doing more business in Hawai'i. To be clear, these MBI members do not want to manufacture modules on the mainland and merely ship them to Hawai'i. Instead, they want to employ Hawai'ians by opening new modular manufacturing facilities in Hawai'i to manufacture buildings for Hawai'i. However, the lack of a cohesive regulatory framework for the modular industry on the islands is preventing our members from taking the next step in establishing a Hawai'ian base of operations.

We see HB2606 as a welcoming sign for our industry, which is ready to commit to helping Hawai'i address its housing and other infrastructure needs. MBI supports this legislation, applauds the sponsor and all those who have worked to make this bill a reality, and would welcome the opportunity to participate in the working group which it creates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Carmack, Government Affairs Director
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¹ Modular Building Institute, “[Rebuilding Hope: How Modular Housing Restored Lives in the Aftermath of the Lahaina Wildfires](#),” accessed 2.5.26.

HB-2606

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:22:09 AM
Testimony for HSG on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

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