

BILL006(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 332

ZONING (ZON)

ZONING (ZON) Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 21, 2023 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 6

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 4

Name: Marshall Hung	Email: marshallhung@icloud.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 19, 2023 @ 01:15 PM
Name: Kauanui Sabas	Email: ksabas@hgea.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Government Employee Association	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 19, 2023 @ 04:03 PM
Name: Rocky Mould	Email: rmould@hsea.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 07:57 AM
Name: Jeffrey Cudiamat	Email: jcudiamat@structuralhawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 08:17 AM
Testimony: I support Bill 6.		
Name: Greg Thielen	Email: greg@ccs-hawaii.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 11:10 AM
Name: Steven Rymsha	Email: steven.rymsha@sunrun.com	Zip: 96793
Representing: Sunrun	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 02:16 PM
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 03:30 PM
Name: Harry Saunders	Email: fsakai@castlecooke.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Castle & Cooke Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 04:51 PM
Name: Evan Oue	Email: eoue@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: NAIOP Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 20, 2023 @ 05:06 PM
Name: Stefanie Sakamoto	Email: ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: BIA	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 21, 2023 @ 08:37 AM

June 19, 2023

The Honorable Calvin K. Y. Say
Chair, Committee on Zoning
City Council
City & County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Bill 6 (2023), CD 1 - RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION.

Chair Say and Members of the Committee on Zoning,

My name is Marshall Hung, and I am a retired housing developer.

I am writing in support of Bill 6, CD1 and am suggesting the following further amendments.

The primary purpose of this bill is to help alleviate the backlog of building permit applications by providing a self-certification process that would allow architects and engineers licensed by the State of Hawaii to certify that the plans submitted for a project meet all requirements of the building, electrical, plumbing, fire, and other codes applicable to a project. This self-certification would result in the automatic issuance of a building permit.

The additional language that is being suggested makes it clear that this self-certification process is an additional avenue available at the request of an applicant for a building permit.

1. The first proposed amendment makes it clear that the self-certification process can be elected by the applicant for a building permit. This clarifies that this is not done at the discretion of the building official.

2. The second proposed amendment makes it clear that the design professional(s) who can self-certify is/are duly licensed by the State of Hawaii. This ensures that only qualified design professionals(s) is/are permitted to do the self-certification. The design professionals who prepare and stamp building permit plans is/are already responsible (liable) for their work so this does not in any way alter that responsibility (liability) for that work. This self-certification process does not in any way alter the current law regarding the allocation of responsibility (liability) for the plans. In fact, as Section 18-5.7, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, states in part, "nor shall the city, including its officers and employees or any other agents of the city, be held liable for such injury or death by reason of the issuance of any permit under this chapter, or the performance of any inspection by the city or the issuance of a certificate certifying that such work has been inspected and approved by the city" thus making it clear that the City itself is not liable in any event for the issuance of building permits.

3. The third proposed amendment excludes projects governed by the International Residential Code (IRC) as well as projects of greater than 60 feet in height from the self-certification process. The IRC exclusion is included because the professional certification of

The Honorable Calvin K. Y. Say
Chair, Committee on Zoning
June 19, 2023
Page 2

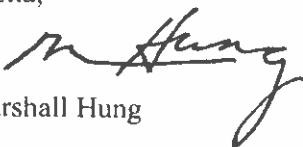
plans for single family and duplex units covered by the IRC is significantly less than for multi-family dwellings. The exclusion for projects greater than 60 feet in height is because those projects are more complex and could pose a greater risk to public health and safety.

4. There are myriad details that can be addressed by the rules suggested in SECTION 2 of this bill. Among these would be clarifications to be sure that this self-certification process is ministerial, not discretionary, so that the intent of the bill – speeding up the building permit process – is not mired down in details subject to the administrative discretion which has led us to the situation we now find ourselves in to begin with.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Aloha,

Marshall Hung

 ph. 808-955-6513
email: marshall.hung@icloud.com



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 6 (2023), CD1

PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this ordinance is to help alleviate the backlog of building permit applications and reviews by giving the building official the authority to allow other outside means of building permit application review for compliance with pertinent codes.

SECTION 2. Chapter 18, Article 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("General Provisions"), is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"§ 18-2. Rules.

The director may adopt rules pursuant to HRS Chapter 91 for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this chapter."

SECTION 3. Section 18-5.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Issuance—Posting—Transfer"), is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

- "(a) The building official shall review the application, plans, specifications, computations, and other data filed by an applicant for a permit [shall be reviewed by the building official.] or, at the written request of an applicant, cause the same to be reviewed by a qualified third- party reviewer or professional authorized to self-certify that the plans, specifications, computations, and other data are correct-accurate, and in compliance with all applicable laws. A design professional such as an architect or engineer duly licensed by the State of Hawaii shall be deemed to be authorized to so self-certify under this §18.5.1(a). Provided however, that such self-certification shall not be applicable to projects that are governed by the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings under §16-1.2 or are greater than 60 feet in height. The building official [shall] may also cause [such] the plans, specifications, computations, and other data to be reviewed by [any] other [appropriate department of the city and the State to review] governmental entities to determine compliance with laws [and ordinances] under their [jurisdiction-] respective jurisdictions. If (i)(A) the building official is satisfied that the work described in [an application for permit and the plans filed therewith conform to the requirements of this code and other] the plans, specifications, computations, and other data comply with all pertinent laws and ordinances[,] or (B) the plans, specifications, computations and other data



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 6 (2023). CD1

filed by an applicant are self-certified under the provisions of this §18.5.1(a), and (ii) the fee specified in §18-6.1 has been paid, the building official shall issue a permit therefor to the applicant; provided that no

permit ~~shall~~ may be granted for the moving of any building or structure or portion thereof that has deteriorated or been damaged to an extent greater than 50 percent of the cost of replacement (new) of such building or structure."



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **6 (2023). CD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 4. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 6 (2023), CD1

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 5. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval; provided that the amendments to the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 made in SECTION 3 of this ordinance are repealed seven years after the effective date of this ordinance.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters (br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

February 16, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Zoning

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

June 21, 2023

BILL 6 (2023) — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on Bill 6 which grants the building official authority to allow other outside means of building permit application review for compliance with pertinent codes.

We represent most employees within the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), including Building Plans Examiners and Building Plans Engineers, among others. These employees meet the existing qualifications and standards established by the department and can make independent determinations in reviewing plans in a timely manner. Permanently allowing third-party reviewers to review permit applications contradicts what has customarily and historically been performed by civil service employees within the DPP.

We acknowledge that the DPP is currently facing a seemingly insurmountable permit backlog and fully recognize that it has created a negative ripple effect on the people of Oahu, including small businesses, working families, and our local economy. **We respectfully ask that the bill be amended to include a sunset date (repeal) of two years, after the effective date of this ordinance.** Third-party reviews should be a short-term and temporary solution. Two years is a reasonable amount of time for the DPP and the City to develop and execute a plan to invest in its current and future workforce. Our expectation of this plan includes: increasing the pay for employees involved in the permitting process, providing other recruitment and retention incentives, and to hire and train new staff.

The DPP and the City needs to invest in their current and future workforce. They continue to face massive vacancy rates due to the City's inability to successfully recruit and retain qualified employees. Raising the pay along with providing other incentives for public employees who are involved in the permitting process is a step in the right direction. In October 2022, the Civil Beat reported on the current salary range for building plans examiners, noting that the salaries of the vast majority of plans examiners in the department met the federal government's definition of "low income" for individuals in Honolulu. By offering a competitive salary, the DPP should be able to fill long-standing vacancies, which in-turn, will reduce the permit backlog.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Bill 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**Testimony Supporting Bill 6 (2023) Relating to Professional Self-Certification Before the
Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning**

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Dear Chair Say and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports Bill 6 (2023)**, which enables third party review (TPR) and self-certification for permitting in ordinance.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy. These investments provide reliable and affordable power that reduces energy cost burden and contributes to Hawaii's energy security as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

Permitting bottlenecks and backlogs have impeded progress and added unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii's renewable energy transition. This impacts all residents and businesses in Hawaii, particularly those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. As new federal, state, and local programs are introduced to bring the cost of solar and energy storage systems down for residents, and systems become more available and accessible to underserved communities, permitting delays have emerged as a primary obstacle to progress.

Bill 6 represents a key building block to implementing effective TPR and self-certification programs by allowing qualified third party reviewers or duly licensed design professionals to review or certify compliance of permit applications prior to inspection. If implemented effectively, TPR and self-certification programs will save cost and time for building permit officials, businesses, and residents with equal or greater compliance and mitigation of risk.

HSEA and other stakeholders have been working diligently for years with the City administration at the leadership and departmental level to effect improvements in the



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

permitting process. We continue to offer our assistance and expertise to fix issues with current systems and help implement internal process changes. Recently, there has been encouraging progress, and we appreciate DPP's efforts, but there is still work to do. HSEA and its members look forward to continued dialog with the City Administration, Council, and stakeholders to improve the system through ordinance or executive action.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in ***support*** of this measure.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould
Executive Director

COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES CORP.

GENERAL CONTRACTING
& DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 757
Kailua, HI 96734
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E-mail greg@ccs-hawaii.com
www.ccs-hawaii.com
Lic# BC-23115

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning
City Council Chamber
Wednesday June 21, 2023
9:00 AM

RE: Bill 6 Relating to Professional Self-Certification

Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and members of the committee,

I am writing with **COMMENTS** to Bill 6 Relating to Professional Self-Certification. While I am a supporter of the self-certification process, I have misgivings about this bill as drafted. The core problem as I see it is that the Bill retains too much discretionary control and authority in the hands of the "building official". Prior legislative attempts to alleviate permit backlogs such as 3rd Party, OTR-60 and Bill 7 90-day requirement have not been successful for this same reason. In order for self-certification to be successful, I suggest moving to a concept where the "building official" needs to be required to issue a building permit provided certain conditions are met. I would suggest the following –

The building official shall issue a building permit to any applicant seeking self-certification provided the following criteria are met.

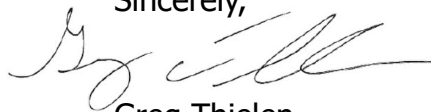
- 1. All projects governed by the IRC are not eligible for self-certification.***
- 2. All projects greater than 60 feet in height are not eligible for self-certification.***
- 3. Applicant shall have plans prepared by all required licensed Architects and Engineers that state all work is in accordance with the current codes of the City and County of Honolulu.***
- 4. Any Federal or State agency approval shall be the responsibility of the applicant.***
- 5. Plans shall be reviewed and approved by the Zoning branch of DPP and the Board of Water Supply.***

Once the building official receives a completed self-certification application, they will have no more than 30 days to accept or deny the application. The building official may only deny an application based on a failure to meet the 5 items above. The building official will not engage in any review or comment upon code

compliance or design of self-certification applicant.

If Bill 6 can be amended to comply with this process, it stands a good chance of succeeding where other measures have not. This process also limits self-certification to projects that are appropriate. Single family homes and duplexes governed by the IRC are excluded because the professional certification of plans is significantly less. This also prevents "Monster Home" builders from utilizing the process. Projects over 60 feet are excluded due to the expanded risk to public health and safety. This leaves a large portion of commercial projects, including multi-family, that can avail themselves of this process. This will reduce their permit processing time as well as lightening the load on DPP staff to handle the remaining projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Thielen', written over a horizontal line.

Greg Thielen
President/RME



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc. to the to the City & County of Honolulu City Council
Before the Committee on Zoning
June 21, 2023

IN SUPPORT of Bill 6 (2023) – Relating to Professional Self-Certification

Dear Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Zoning,

Sunrun supports Bill 6 (2023), which authorizes third party review (TPR) and self-certification for permitting.

Sunrun is the nation's leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai'i with office and warehouse locations on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Islands. We employ more than 350 professions across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Permitting is one of the largest remaining roadblocks to widespread distributed energy resource (DER) adoption, and this bill would address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals by enabling alternative pathways for permit approval. Allowing licensed architects and engineers to certify that project plans are compliant with all relevant codes will decrease the current months-long permitting backlog. We support this measure in conjunction with other efforts by the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to address and streamline permitting for residential energy projects, such as the implementation of SolarAPP+ to automate and further expedite permitting.

Hawai'i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,¹ and DER systems are critical to achieving the state's RPS goals. In 2020, solar power generated nearly 17% of the state's total electricity, largely due to the rapid uptake of small-scale, customer-sites solar systems.² In 2021, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved 38% renewable generation, attributed to "a full year of geothermal production and an increase in private rooftop solar."³ Further, rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai'i's clean energy portfolio making up 44.6% of all renewable energy in the state.⁴ Continued implementation of rooftop solar has proven to be a strong component of the state's renewable energy generation and contributes to a more resilient energy system. TPR and self-certification will expedite the installation of rooftop solar by reducing time and costs for residents, permitting officials, and contractors – allowing customers to benefit from their systems sooner. The implementation of TPR and self-certification will also allow building permit officials to spend more time on larger and more complicated projects, resulting in the county re-focusing resources where they are needed most.

¹ <https://enrgy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

² <https://www.cia.gov/state/?sid=HI#tabs-1>

³ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-hits-38-renewable-energy-in-2021>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/performance-scorecards-and-metrics/renewable-energy>



June 21, 2023

9 a.m.

Honolulu City Council Chambers

To: Honolulu City and County Council, Committee on Zoning

Councilmember Calvin Say, Chair

Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 6 (2023) — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [Bill 6 \(2023\)](#), which would allow building applications to be reviewed by qualified third-party reviewers or professionals qualified to self-certify that the plans and other data are in compliance with all applicable laws.

Expanding the use of third- party reviewers and self-certification could meaningfully slash Honolulu's permitting backlog, which in May stood at 209 days¹

Third-party review, which the county has already utilized to some extent, allows property owners and builders to contract with private vendors to review their building permits.

Under a self-certification regime, professionals such as architects, engineers and other experts designated by the DPP could attest that their building plans complied with all applicable building codes and regulations and automatically receive a permit without going through a DPP or third-party review.

¹ ["Update from the Department of Planning and Permitting on Building Permit Process Backlog,"](#) Honolulu City Council, May 25, 2023.

Other municipalities across the country use both of these mechanisms to minimize permitting delays. For example, Johns Creek, Georgia, a town of 80,000, contracts with a private entity to review its most complicated permits, such as for hospitals, while allowing its civil servants to review standard permits, such as for homes. This helps the city avoid permitting backlogs. In fact, permits in Johns Creek are often issued within five to 10 days of when they are applied for.²

Self-certification has also worked in other cities. For example, New York City has employed a self-certification process for decades. This has helped speed up the building process without sacrificing public safety, especially since the city has implemented several safeguards to help ensure that all buildings meet code.

For example, the city's Department of Buildings randomly audits 20% of self-certified plans, and architects can lose their professional certification privileges or endure harsher penalties for failure to comply with code.³

Chicago has also used a self-certification program with success. Many architects can self-certify building plans and receive a permit within 10 days.⁴

Lest anyone fear that self-certification could lead to unsafe buildings, many architects and engineers would likely ask third-party reviewers to double-check their findings for more complicated projects. Building code inspectors would also still perform routine inspections on the buildings during their construction, and again upon their completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

² Joe Kent, "[Testimony: Hawaii County could use 'Konno' exceptions to address permit backlog](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Nov. 3, 2022.

³ "[Back to Basics: Professional Certification — Pros and Cons](#)," Milrose Consultants, July 1, 2015.

⁴ "[Self-Certification Permit Program](#)," City of Chicago, Feb. 25, 2022.



June 20, 2023

The Honorable Calvin Say, Chair
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair
and Members of the Zoning Committee
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3077

Dear Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam and Members of the Zoning Committee:

Subject: ***Bill 6 (23) – Relating to Self Certification***

I am Harry Saunders, President of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Bill 06 Relating to Self Certification.

Castle & Cooke Hawai'i is in support of Bill 6, Relating to Professional Self Certification. Castle & Cooke Hawai'i is in favor of legislation that will improve the building permitting process. This bill is intended to reduce the backlog of building permit applications by giving the Department of Planning and Permitting the authority to allow compliance review by third-party professionals or professionals authorized to self-certify that plans, specifications, computations and other data are correct, accurate and in compliance with all applicable laws.

The State of Hawai'i is in a housing crisis, and passage of this bill will be a significant step towards building more homes in a timely manner.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

Harry Saunders
President
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
hsaunders@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-4884

Garret Matsunami
Vice President Residential Operations
Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, Inc.
gmatsunami@castlecooke.com
Phone: 626-3625



June 20, 2023

Councilmember Calvin Say, Chair
Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair
Committee on Zoning

RE: **Bill 6 – RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION
CONSERVATION CODE.**
Hearing date – June 21, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

Aloha Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing NAIOP Hawaii to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **BILL 6 – PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION**. NAIOP Hawaii is the Hawaii chapter of the nation's leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders and other professionals.

Bill 6 seeks to help alleviate the backlog of building permit applications and reviews by giving the building official the authority to allow other outside means of building permit application review for compliance with pertinent codes. Specifically, the measure amends section 18-5.1(a) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 (ROH), to allow review to be conducted by a "qualified third-party reviewer or professional authorized to self-certify that the plans, specifications, computations and other data are correct, accurate and in compliance with all applicable laws."

NAIOP Hawaii stands in support of this measure which will assist in the review of permit applications and expedite the process for development in Honolulu. Self-certification of plans would add a material benefit by decreasing the risk of project permitting and costs of a project. In turn, projects will be enabled to expedite their development process and allow housing units to be produced more efficiently.

We greatly appreciate the work of the council on this measure and would respectfully ask for the opportunity to work together to clarify a few definitions and process concerns there to ensure efficiency in the implementation of the third-party review established in this measure.

Councilmember Calvin Say, Chair
Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair
Committee on Zoning
June 20, 2023

Accordingly, NAIOP Hawaii supports this measure due to the impacts that it will have on getting homes built for our residents. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Camp", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Camp, President
NAIOP Hawaii



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON ZONING
Honolulu Hale
9:00 AM**

June 21, 2023

RE: BILL 6 - RELATING TO SELF CERTIFICATION

Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and members of the Council:

My name is Max Lindsey, Government Relations Committee Chair of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA Hawaii is in support of Bill 6, Relating to Professional Self Certification. The intent of this bill is to reduce the backlog of building permit applications by giving the building official the authority to allow other outside means of building permit application review for compliance with pertinent codes.

We are in support of any legislation that would help fix the building permitting process. Allowing for self certification would hopefully be a step in the right direction.

The state of Hawaii is in a dire housing crisis. As the Council is aware, the cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, with Oahu's median price of homes being currently over \$1 million. Approximately 140,43 U.S. households are priced out of buying a home for every \$1000 increase in price, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). We are in support of legislation that would allow for the building of much-needed housing at every price point in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.