BILL055(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 576

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Dec 11, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stefanie Sakamoto	ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
BIA Hawaii	I wish to comment	Dec 10, 2024 @ 06:41 PM

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Honolulu Hale
10:00 AM

December 11, 2024

RE: Bill 55 - RELATING TO ADOPTION OF THE FIRE CODE

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaaina, and members of the Council:

My name is Roseann Freitas, President and CEO 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 55, Relating to the Adoption of the Fire Code. We are specifically writing with comments regarding section 17.3.5.2.1.11.6, clearance of brush or vegetative growth from structures. We continue to have concerns about the broad language which could lead to unintended consequences for property owners.

Section 17.3.5.2.1.11.6(5) requires that property owners keep roofs clear of leaves and needles. While we understand the intent, this requirement should be further clarified. A zero-tolerance policy that mandates the removal of every single leaf is both unrealistic and unenforceable. Regular maintenance to remove significant buildup is reasonable, but minor amounts of natural debris are inevitable in areas with trees.

This requirement may also have the unintended consequence of impacting insurance claims. With current property insurance rates reaching all-time highs in Hawaii, these kinds of requirements may cause even more unnecessary and unintended rate spikes for our residents, and may even cause properties to become uninsurable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.