

BILL019(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 109

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 11:00 AM
Name: Geena Thielen	Email: geena@ccs-hawaii.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 12:07 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please support Bill 19. Currently DPP is using the existing language in this law to enforce a Draconian “zero tolerance policy”. Projects are being denied Certificate of Occupancy and being forced to make changes to plans for trivial changes that commonly occur with most construction projects.</p>		
Name: Stefanie Sakamoto	Email: ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: BIA Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 08:32 PM

Feb. 26, 2025, 10 a.m.

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council
Tommy Waters, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 19 (2025) — RELATING TO THE BUILDING CODE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Weyer and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 19 \(2025\)](#), which would specify the types of changes to construction plans that require the plans be resubmitted to the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting.

Currently, the city code requires that “any changes” made to an approved plan must be resubmitted to the department for further review. Bill 19 (2025) would replace the word “any” with “substantial” and would specify that “substantial changes” are only edits that change the square footage of the project for the purpose of complying with zoning rules, the occupancy of a space that could affect fire prevention, the number of dwelling or sleeping units or the number of plumbing fixture units.

Creating a narrower standard of what needs review from the department would help streamline the permitting system for everyone. Builders would no longer have to resubmit plans for minor changes, and city staff would be able to focus their efforts on cutting down the permitting backlog.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 26, 2025
10:00 AM**

Subject: Bill 19, RELATING TO THE BUILDING CODE

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

My name is Geena Thielen, Chair of the Codes Committee 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 strong support of Bill 19, Relating to the Building Code. The purpose of this bill is to amend the building code of the City & County of Honolulu, and seeks to address and rectify an existing issue with the amendment process for construction documents.

Currently, the process for amending construction documents presents unnecessary delays and administrative burdens that impact builder project stakeholders. These challenges result in increased costs, extended project timelines, and additional regulatory hurdles that ultimately affect the delivery of much-needed housing and infrastructure. By streamlining the process, Bill 19 (2025) will facilitate a more efficient construction document system without compromising safety or regulatory compliance.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter, and look forward to working with the Council on this and other housing issues for our City.