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Chamber of  
Sustainable  
Commerce  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI  
96823



Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice-Chair  
Comm. on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
2:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

RE: **HB2286** Limit Frivolous Attorney Fees - **Support**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we support HB2286, which requires that the fees for attorneys retained by a condominium association be paid from an association's funds or reserves, **limits the total and final legal fees to 25 per cent** of the original debt amount, requires attorneys retained by a condominium association to confine their communications to the condominium board, except when the attorneys must request and require materials and responses directly from owners for each matter, and prohibits attorneys retained by a condominium association from billing unit owners directly.

This bill provides perfectly contoured solutions to some rampant problems: 1) frivolous dispatch and wasteful use of attorney resources, 2) unverifiable billing and unchecked errors in billing, and 3) disproportionately high attorney fees to address relatively low-cost problem.

Yours is the only House committee charged with protecting consumers. HB2286 demonstrates the legislature's ability to offer consumer protections to condo owners: understanding that many kupuna live in these condos, and may be living on a limited retirement income. We applaud Representative Belatti for this finely crafted, compassionate bill.