Hawaii Legislative Council Members

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> > Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu

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

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:00 PM, Room 329

RE: SB2726 SD2 Relating to Condominiums - Support

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State 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.

We disappointedly support SB2726 SD, which requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on how certain other states approach the following subjects as they relate to condominiums: ombudsman programs, licensing for management, alternative dispute resolution, governmental regulation, owner education, and owner access to documents. This "study" is literally the least the legislature can do; it's as disingenuous as offering condo owners "thoughts and prayers" when they have been asking for better consumer protections for decades.

The legislature has studied many of these issue in the past. Like all reforms, the most studied policies and practices are meaningless without sufficient funding for proper implementation. If the LRB is going to study this issue, you might as well ask them to look into ALL the questions listed in the testimony submitted by Kokua Council members, whom have already studied the problems created by Hawaii's inadequate condo laws and proposed solutions.