

SB 877

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2009

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB877, SD1 "Relating to the One Call Center"

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer 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.

BIA-Hawaii **strongly supports SB877, SD1** "Relating to the One Call Center." This bill will allow for the continued operation of the State's One Call Center beyond the current statutory sunset date of June 30, 2009 by making the law permanent. The One Call Center's continued operation will provide advanced warning to excavators of the location of underground lines before they dig.

Making the operation of the One Call Center permanent will aid in assuring that utility services provided to the public via underground facilities will not be interrupted by unintentional breaks in underground lines resulting from excavators lacking knowledge of the location of those facilities in the area of excavation.

BIA-Hawaii was an active participant in the establishment of the One Call Center and we support the passage of SB877, SD1 that would make the One Call Center permanent

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with the Committee.



Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer
BIA-Hawaii

Testimony before the Senate Committee On Ways and Means

By Ken T. Morikami
Manager, Engineering Department
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

February 26, 2009

Senate Bill 877SD1
Relating to the One Call Center

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ken Morikami and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company.

We are in **support** of SB 877SD1 which repeals the June 30, 2009 sunset provision in Act 141.

As a member of the PUC's One Call Center Advisory Committee, we support the continuation of the One Call program that provides advanced warning to excavators of the location of underground facilities before they dig. As owners of underground electrical lines, we support efforts to prevent construction dig-ins that minimizes disruption of service to our customers, and enhances the safety for excavators and the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Stephanie C. Ackerman
Vice President Public Policy & Communication
P.O. Box 3000
Honolulu, HI 96802-3000

(808) 535-5913
sackerman@hawaiigas.com

**Testimony in Support of SB 877, SD1
Relating to the One Call Center**

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2009

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Tsutsui and members of the committee:

My name is Stephanie Ackerman, Vice President Public Policy and Communications of The Gas Company. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 877, SD1 Relating to the One Call Center.

The Gas Company supports SB 877, SD1 as it allows the one call center to continue beyond its pilot stage. The Gas Company believes that the one call center has been successful in its role as a provider of advance warning to excavators and it continues to benefit the general public and governmental entities.

We ask for your support for SB 877, SD1.

Thank you for allowing The Gas Company to present these comments.

**TESTIMONY OF CARLITO P. CALIBOSO
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

MEASURE: S.B. No. 877 S.D.1
TITLE: Relating to the One Call Center.

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This bill proposes to amend Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004 (codified as chapter 269E, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS")), by repealing the current sunset date of June 30, 2009. Chapter 269E, HRS, established the Hawaii One Call Center ("HOCC") which provides advanced warning to excavators of the location of underground facilities prior to commencement of an excavation.

POSITION:

The Commission strongly supports this Administration bill and offers the following comments.

COMMENTS:

Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, required the Commission to establish a state one call center for Hawaii similar to other centers operating throughout the nation, and the first of its kind in this State requiring mandatory participation by both excavators (e.g., contractors) and subsurface facility operators (e.g., public utilities). The One Call Center system provides advanced warning to excavators of the location of underground lines before they begin a dig. This mandatory "Call Before You Dig" program provides excavators with a single phone number to call for locating and marking underground lines, including, but not limited to, lines for electric, gas, telecommunications, cable, water, and sewer facilities.

In addition to regulating excavation activity, this law is intended to minimize the disruption of service to operator customers, and enhance the safety of excavators.

On November 15, 2005, the Commission, in agreement with the recommendation of the One Call Center Advisory Committee, awarded the contract to create and administer the state one call center to One Call Concepts, Inc. (OCC). The center began operations statewide on January 1, 2006.

By repealing the sunset date at this time, it will allow continued organization of the program to fulfill its mission to serve and protect the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

820 Mililani Street, Suite 810 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

February 26, 2009

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 877, SD 1 – RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER

Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association and we would like to request a favorable amendment to this bill.

We have no problem with the intent of the program and in fact, we agree that it is of benefit. Unfortunately we don't think that our activities were considered when the law went into effect and we find that there is rather sporadic participation by our members.

It is typical that pest control operators, with some termiticide applications, are required to dig a four (4) inch deep trench around the perimeter of the house. Other types of applications require digging for the placement of six (6) inch or so deep bait stations in and around the house. We don't believe that our activities were ever envisioned to cover this type of system as we are not "excavators" and as such, we would request a specific exemption which perhaps could be best placed in the definition of "excavation" in Section 269E-2 which would exempt the activities of a pest control operator licensed

by Chapter 460J HRS. Other states have provided for a similar exemption, without problems and we request the same.

Based on the above, we would respectfully request a formal exemption from this bill.

Thank you.