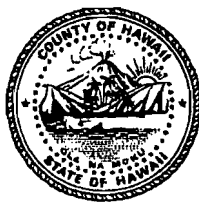


Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii

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February 3, 2006

The Honorable David Ige
Chair, Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Committee on Transportation
and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige, Senator Inouye, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2909 Relating to Permit Approvals

The automatic approval law was passed in 1998. It was an attempt to respond to the Economic Revitalization Task Force and was an effort to improve Hawai'i's business climate. However, granting a permit by default does not reflect good public policy, and therefore we strongly urge this legislature to modify or eliminate the automatic permit approval statute.

Section I of this bill provides some good examples as to the negative consequences of the existing law. It is also fair to say that, without amendment, there is no telling what controversial measure might be "automatically approved" in the future. In the interest of good public policy and in fairness, I think it would be appropriate to say that Section 91-13.5, HRS, was well intentioned, but its negative potential is too great to risk.

I would support the total repeal of automatic approval. If that is not possible, then I strongly support SB 2909, to at least give each County the option to opt out of its provisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
MAYOR