



February 7, 2006

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, and Members  
 Senate Committee on Transportation and Government Operations  
 The Honorable David Y Ige, Chair, and Members  
 Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs  
 Hawaii State Capitol  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

BY FACSIMILE: 586-6659; 587-7205

Dear Chairs Inouye, Ige, and Members:

**RE: Senate Bill No. 2909, Relating to Permit Approvals**

I am Dean Uchida, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), testifying **in opposition** to S.B. 2909, Relating to Permit Approvals.

This bill would allow a county to opt out of the automatic permit approval law by adopting an ordinance to exempt the county as a whole or any county agency from the law.

Section 91-13.5 was enacted as Act 164 from SB 2204 of the 1998 Session of the Legislature. LURF supported this important legislation, an outgrowth of the Economic Revitalization Task Force (ERTF), as it requires government agencies which issue permits, approvals, and licenses to establish time frames for decision-making, *and then follow them*. Permits or approvals not granted or denied within the allowed time frames established by agencies' own rules are deemed automatically granted. Exceptions are allowed for State permit programs operating under Federal law, and extensions must be granted under certain conditions of natural disaster, State emergency, or union strike.

We believe that Act 164 has been instrumental in reducing the slow and uncertain time requirements for obtaining business or development-related permits, licenses, or approvals, without causing undue hardship on the affected agencies or the public. County processes, in particular, have been improved. Accordingly, we see no reason to repeal Section 91-13.5, and therefore ask that you **hold** SB 2909.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

**LATE**