

IEM Committee

From: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam <execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 4:36 PM
To: IEM Committee
Subject: Testimony on IEM-33
Attachments: 091117 IEM-33 Maui Sand Moratorium.pdf

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony from the Hawaii Construction Alliance regarding IEM-33.

Mahalo,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
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Hawai'i Construction Alliance

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Honolulu, HI 96817
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September 11, 2017

The Honorable Elle Cochran, Chair
The Honorable Don S. Guzman, Vice Chair
and Members
Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee
Council of the County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

RE: Concerns Regarding IEM-33, Moratorium on Exporting Sand

Dear Chair Cochran, Vice Chair Guzman, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

We appreciate the committee's commitment to protecting Maui's cultural heritage and precious natural environment. We write to express strong concerns, however, regarding the proposed bill to prohibit sand mining activities for a period of up to two years to allow for an analysis on the availability of inland sand and the adoption of an ordinance regulating mining, excavation, extraction, or stockpiling of inland sand. Specifically, we write to express concerns regarding the impacts to the local construction industry.

Each of our unions has a role in working with materials derived from sand, and their livelihoods could be negatively affected by the proposed moratorium. A moratorium on sand would, in effect, limit the amount of concrete which is available for the island, which would in turn slow construction for necessary projects. A moratorium on sand would also increase the cost of concrete, which would affect all types of construction – from homes for residents to public work projects for the community at large. We therefore request that your committee proceed very carefully before instituting a blanket moratorium, and ensure that the proposed study includes a thorough analysis of economic and community effects.

We also raise concerns about the environmental impacts of imported sand, which may have an outsized environmental impact due to the way such sand is mined in other countries and the fact that the dense sand material must be shipped here on fossil-fuel burning ships. Imported sand may also introduce invasive species, as is always a concern with any sort of raw, unprocessed imported construction materials. We therefore request that your committee reconsider a blanket moratorium, which would force the industry to solely rely on imported sand for the proposed moratorium period.

Should the committee prefer to convene a working group of stakeholders – rather than impose a blanket moratorium – we would be open to assisting the committee in identifying representatives with specific expertise in the construction industry who could participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tyler" being the most prominent.

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance
execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org