

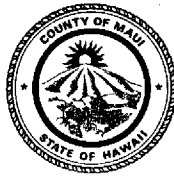


LATE

SB2628

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|-------------------|--|
| Measure Title: | RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL. |
| Report Title: | State Building Code Council; Task Force; Operating Expenses; Appropriation (\$) |
| Description: | Establishes a task force within the state building code council to consider the necessity, potential source, and application of long-term funding for council operations, and appropriates funds to the council for administrative expenses and staff positions. |
| Companion: | |
| Package: | None |
| Current Referral: | PSM, WAM |
| Introducer(s): | ESPERO, Nishihara |

ALAN M ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY MURRAY
FIRE CHIEF

ROBERT SHIMADA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732
(808) 270-7561
Fax (808) 270-7919

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2628 Relating to the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC has been a voting member of the SBCC since its formation in 2007. The SFC and the MFD strongly support SB 2628.

The SBCC, is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services. It is comprised of subject matter experts, government agencies, and construction industry representatives with the authority to establish a comprehensive suite of codes applicable to all building construction in the State of Hawaii in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes 107-24. National model codes and standards, which are updated every three years, establish minimum requirements for building construction to protect life, property, and the general welfare of our citizens. The SBCC is responsible to establish statewide, uniform building standards for the following:

1. State Fire Code
2. State Plumbing Code
3. State Building Code
4. State Residential Code
5. State Electrical Code
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation

February 1, 2016

7. Additional codes and standards include, but are not limited to, elevators, mechanical systems, hurricane, flood and tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage disposal.

The currently adopted State building, residential, electrical, plumbing and energy efficiency codes are in excess of nine years from national standards. This negates the dedicated efforts of eleven unpaid volunteers who have individually expended hundreds of hours over the past eight years. Since its inception in 2007, there has been no funding for the SBCC, which is needed for support staff or contracted services and related rule adoption expenses.

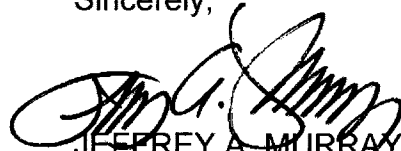
There are approximately 60,000 Hawaii homeowner flood insurance policies that could be jeopardized by the State failing to stay in compliance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Moreover, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is not obligated to provide disaster assistance funds to any state that is not in compliance with the NFIP requirements, nor make available any disaster mitigation grants. Also, private insurance and re-insurance companies consider the building codes adopted by the state in determining natural hazard risks and insurance rate structures.

We believe that the SBCC task force will produce alternative options for the long-term sustainability of the SBCC.

We anticipate the annual operating costs of the SBCC to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and we strongly urge your committees' support and passage of SB 2628.

Should you have questions please contact me at (808) 270-7561 or fire.dept@mauicounty.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY, Chief
Maui Fire Department