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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO BUILDING CODES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

PART I

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that health, safety, and efficiency are key cost considerations in construction projects. The legislature further finds that Hawaii continues to face high costs of construction as the State and counties continue to explore how to create more affordable housing and transit-oriented development.

The purpose of this part is to require the legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on construction projects in the State.

SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall conduct a study on construction projects in the State, including:

- (1) The factors that contribute to costs;
- (2) Key contributors to cost overruns; and
- (3) The effects of using alternative building codes on the plumbing industry and public health and safety.



1 (b) The legislative reference bureau shall submit the  
2 study, including findings and recommendations, to the  
3 legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of  
4 the regular session of 2019.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
8 legislative reference bureau to conduct a study of construction  
9 projects in the State.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
11 reference bureau for the purposes of this part.

12 PART II

13 SECTION 4. Building codes are standards or procedures  
14 developed by standards organizations and adopted into law and  
15 enforced by state and local governments. These building codes  
16 standardize the practices of the building industry and provide  
17 minimum standards for the protection of public health and  
18 safety. The Hawaii state building codes apply to all  
19 construction in the State and are based on the state fire code,  
20 the Uniform Plumbing Code, the International Building Code, the  
21 International Residential Code, the International Energy



1 Conservation Code, the National Electrical Code, the Hawaii  
2 design standards, and other code provisions based on nationally  
3 published codes or standards.

4 The purpose of this part is allow state projects to be  
5 designed and constructed using the International Plumbing Code  
6 in lieu of the Uniform Plumbing Code, subject to certain  
7 conditions.

8 SECTION 5. Section 107-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **"§107-25 Hawaii state building codes; requirements.** There  
11 is established the Hawaii state building codes applicable to all  
12 construction in the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii state building  
13 codes shall be based upon:

14 (1) The state fire code as adopted by the state fire  
15 council;

16 (2) The Uniform Plumbing Code, as copyrighted and  
17 published by the International Association of Plumbing  
18 and Mechanical Officials[~~, including its appendices~~];  
19 provided that the International Plumbing Code, as  
20 copyrighted and published by the International Code  
21 Council, may be used in lieu of the Uniform Plumbing



1       Code when approved by the administrative authority  
2       having jurisdiction; provided that:

3       (A) A written request by a Hawaii licensed  
4       professional engineer with the concurrence of the  
5       building project owner must be made to the  
6       administrative authority having jurisdiction;

7       (B) The details of the approval shall be recorded and  
8       entered in the files of the department;

9       (C) Plans submitted shall be stamped by the Hawaii  
10       licensed professional engineer;

11       (D) Where conflicts exist between a code the  
12       authority having jurisdiction shall deem which  
13       provision in part or whole shall be recognized,  
14       approved, and enforced; and

15       (E) Plans submitted shall clearly state on the  
16       submitted title, plumbing or mechanical sheets  
17       that the International Plumbing Code was used as  
18       a basis of the design.

19       (3) The International Building Code, the International  
20       Residential Code, and the International Energy



1 Conservation Code, as published by the International  
2 Code Council;

3 (4) The National Electrical Code, as published by the  
4 National Fire Protection Association;

5 (5) Hawaii design standards implementing the criteria  
6 pursuant to Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii[7]  
7 2005, as applicable to:

8 (A) Emergency shelters built to comply with hurricane  
9 resistant criteria, including enhanced hurricane  
10 protection areas capable of withstanding a five  
11 hundred-year hurricane event as well as other  
12 storms and natural hazards; and

13 (B) Essential government facilities requiring  
14 continuity of operations; and

15 (6) Code provisions based on nationally published codes or  
16 standards that include but are not limited to  
17 residential and hurricane resistant standards related  
18 to loss mitigation standards in accordance with  
19 section 431P-12, elevator, mechanical, flood and  
20 tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage  
21 disposal."



1 PART III

2 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
3 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050;  
5 provided that part II shall take effect on January 1, 2100.



**Report Title:**

State Building Codes; Construction; Costs; Study; Plumbing Code; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on construction projects in the State. Appropriates funds for the study. Allows state projects to be designed and constructed using the International Plumbing Code in lieu of the Uniform Plumbing Code, subject to certain conditions. (SB3006 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

