

JAN 27 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2020, the median
2 price of a single-family home in Hawaii was \$738,000 and the
3 median price of a condominium in Hawaii was \$522,000. The
4 legislature also finds that the cost of residential construction
5 on Oahu is \$290 per square foot and the cost of residential
6 construction on the neighbor islands is \$200 per square foot.

7 The legislature further finds that building codes and
8 standards passed by the International Code Council add to the
9 cost of housing construction and reduce affordability. In
10 determining whether to adopt international standards, the state
11 building code council should assess the financial impact of
12 changes to the construction costs for single-family and multi-
13 family dwellings in the State.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the state building
15 code council to:



1 (1) Consider the impact of building codes and standards on
2 the cost of single-family and multi-family homes built
3 in the State; and

4 (2) Include with the annual written report submitted by
5 the council to the governor, a financial impact
6 assessment on each code and standard adopted by the
7 council.

8 SECTION 2. Section 107-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **"§107-24 Authority and duties of the council.** (a) Any
11 law to the contrary notwithstanding, the council shall establish
12 the Hawaii state building codes.

13 (b) The council shall appoint a subcommittee comprising
14 the four council members representing county building officials,
15 whose duty shall be to recommend any necessary or desirable
16 state amendments to the codes and standards identified in
17 section 107-25. Any recommended state amendments shall require
18 the unanimous agreement of the subcommittee.

19 (c) The council shall adopt, amend, or update codes and
20 standards identified in section 107-25 on a staggered basis as
21 established by the council; provided that adoption of a code or



1 standard shall be within two years of the official publication
2 date of the code or standard, pursuant to chapter 92, and exempt
3 from the requirements of chapter 91. If the council does not
4 adopt a code or standard identified in section 107-25 within the
5 two-year time period, that code or standard shall automatically
6 become part of the Hawaii state building code until superseded
7 by the adoption of an amended version of the code or standard by
8 the council pursuant to this subsection.

9 (d) The council may appoint other investigative, technical
10 expertise committees, which may include council members.

11 (e) The council shall consult with general building
12 contractor associations and building trade associations to
13 gather information and recommendations on construction practices
14 and training relevant to building codes and standards.

15 (f) When considering the adoption of any codes and
16 standards, the council shall consider the financial impact of
17 the code or standard on the cost of single-family and multi-
18 family homes built in the State.

19 ~~(f)~~ (g) The council may make expenditures for technical
20 references, equipment and supplies, and other operating



1 expenses, and may contract for the conduct of research studies
2 and other technical services.

3 ~~(g)~~ (h) The council may provide education and technical
4 training and administrative assistance in the form of services
5 or grants at the state and county levels relating to the
6 implementation and enforcement of the Hawaii state building
7 codes adopted pursuant to this part.

8 ~~(h)~~ (i) At the end of each fiscal year, the council
9 shall submit a written report to the governor on the council's
10 activities, including the codes and standards adopted, amended,
11 or updated by the council. The written report shall include a
12 financial impact assessment on each code and standard adopted by
13 the council to determine whether the codes and standards
14 substantially benefit residents of the State."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1279

Report Title:

State Building Code Council; Building Codes and Standards;
Financial Impact Assessment

Description:

Requires the state building code council to: consider the impact of building codes and standards on the cost of single- and multi-family homes built in the State when considering whether to adopt a code or standard; and include with its annual written report to the governor a financial impact assessment on each code and standard adopted by the council.

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