

# ***SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii***

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April 13, 2023

Testimony To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: SCR 91, SD 1 - REQUESTING THE GOVENOR TO CONVENE A TASK  
FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING  
PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL AND AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

We are in support of this Resolution.

This Resolution is a result of bills being considered by this Legislature which would have changed the adoption process, in our minds, in an inefficient and confusing way.

One of the reasons the Statewide Building Code Council exists is to provide some level of uniformity between the various counties and the building code provisions. That is desirable. The negative to that is that there may be some situations that don't fit all counties, so it is a logical conclusion then that there must be a process to allow the counties to consider the various code changes and to provide for exceptions to those changes when necessary. That needs to be an efficient and timely process.

It is the purpose of this Resolution to examine and identify a more expedient way in order to handle these kinds of situations and to that extent we fully endorse it and would be happy to serve on the Task Force.

Based on the above, we recommend passage of this Resolution.

Thank you.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**  
**State Capitol, Room 329**  
**415 South Beretania Street**  
**2:15 PM**

**APRIL 13, 2023**

RE: SCR 91 - RESOLUTION CONVENING TASK FORCE ON BUILDING CODE PROCESS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee:

My name is Max Lindsey, 2023 Government Relations Committee Chair of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

**BIA-Hawaii is in strong support of SCR 91.** This resolution is requesting the Governor to convene a task force to examine and make recommendations on the existing procedures for the adoption of the State Building Code.

This resolution would convene a task force to analyze the current building code process. Streamlining this often cumbersome process would help the building industry more efficiently and consistently build housing. Currently, the building code goes through numerous changes regularly, causing confusion, delays, and constant added cost. The current State Building Code Council does not take into consideration the cost implications of adopting new codes. Nationally, many of the new codes have mandates built-in that manufacturers and special interest groups have embedded into new code revisions. Certain mandates are not intended to protect the public health or safety, and ultimately increase the cost of housing. We are looking forward to participating in a true task force that will fully examine the building code adoption process and its effect on housing prices in Hawaii.

The state of Hawaii is in a dire housing crisis. As the Legislature is aware, the cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, with Oahu's median price of homes being currently over \$1 million. Approximately 153,967 U.S. households are priced out of buying a home for every \$1000 increase in price, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). We are in support of legislation that would allow for the building of much-needed housing at every price point in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of this measure.

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**Testimony to  
The Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

**Thursday, April 13, 2023**

**2:15 PM**

**Conference Room 329 & VIA videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol**

**SCR 91 SD1**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas supports SCR 91 SD1, requesting the Governor to convene a task force to examine and make recommendations on the existing procedures for the adoption of the state building code.

Hawaii's building code is essential to the state's ongoing growth and development, and the building industry is essential to the successful execution of that code. Under the current structure, that industry has very little input in that process, resulting in situations that don't always reflect the best practices of the industry. This proposal corrects that, allowing the building industry to be part of that process.

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from low-carbon to negative-carbon emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Despite representing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii's atmosphere, we are working to conscientiously reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing cost-effective, local, renewable energy projects.

We urge the committee to pass SCR 91, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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April 12, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on  
Consumer Protection & Commerce,  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 2:15pm,  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State  
Capitol

**IN SUPPORT** OF S.C.R. NO. 91 S.D 1, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A  
TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING  
PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Borge with RMA Sales and a former board member/Chair of the State Small Business Regulatory Review Board. We are a locally-owned and managed kamaaina company since 1961. We manufacture and distribute louver jalousie windows, security and storm screens through a network of dealers, hardware stores and contractors throughout the state of Hawaii.

We strongly support the formation of the Task Force to aggressively and thoroughly review the existing processes/procedures for the adoption of the state building codes. We also firmly believe in the intent of this resolution especially as it relates to examining the financial impacts of the building code on the construction and housing industry and ultimately, the price of each and every home within the State.

The intent of the building codes was to establish minimum standards in the design and construction of structures to provide for the safety and well-being of the occupants and the public. The building codes that have evolved over the last 15 years has gone well beyond the intent of the building codes. It's time for a pragmatic review and action steps necessary to resolve the building code concerns/issues.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted



Anthony Borge



April 11, 2023

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee Consumer  
Protection & Commerce  
Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2023

RE: **SCR 91, SD1 – REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE**

**Hearing Date: April 13, 2023 at 2:15 pm**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of D.R. Horton Hawaii LLC (“D.R. Horton”) in **SUPPORT** of SCR 91, SD1 – REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE. D.R. Horton is one of Hawaii’s largest home builders and has been providing affordable and workforce housing for Hawaii’s families throughout Oahu for fifty years. D.R. Horton is a leader in building quality and sustainable home designs and has adopted an overall sustainability plan for its Ho’opili master planned community in West Oahu.

D.R. Horton has been participating in State Building Code Council meetings for the past three years. Our involvement has intensified as we continue to see newly adopted codes increasing the cost of much needed housing. The primary purpose of code adoption is to set minimum requirements of the built environment that protect the life, health and safety of its occupant. D.R. Horton absolutely agrees that it is of utmost importance to comply with appropriate building standards to promote life, health and safety. It is equally important to adopt these building standards in an efficient, methodical and sustainable manner that does not further exacerbate our housing crisis.

The current adoption protocols and resulting process for updating building codes is extremely inefficient, cumbersome and costly. Currently, building codes are based on international model codes that are written for global compliance. They do not factor in the environment, construction climate and supply chain challenges unique to Hawaii. The State Building Code process should be the method in which this global compliance can be right sized to Hawaii. While it does serve this function at times, the State Building Code process has also resulted in local code amendments that go above and beyond the minimum standards set by the international model code. This has resulted in rising housing costs since the State

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Members of the House Committee Consumer  
Protection & Commerce

April 11, 2023

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Building Code process does not required a cost benefit analysis to appropriately evaluate the cost implications to much needed housing.

Given the desperate need for housing in Hawaii, the focus should be on re-evaluating processes that will facilitate housing production and evaluate costs while balancing building standards that promote life, health and safety,

D.R. Horton supports a task force, that includes industry members, who can thoughtfully review and mindfully evaluate the current State Building Code process with the goal of establishing more efficiency and effectiveness as we collectively work toward solving our housing crisis. For these reasons, D.R. Horton strongly urges the committee to pass SCR 91, SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tracy Tonaki  
President

D.R. Horton - Hawaii Division

**SCR-91-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:05:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve allen	allens plumbing inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Addressing building code changes is critical in lowering cost and improving availability of housing.

Removing hurdles for both planning and construction is even more critical.



**SCR-91-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:41:45 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Scott	Engineered Systems Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution. We need a better building code process. There is much confusion internally within the Building Dept. We need to review this for more cost effective housing and building for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo. Paul Scott

**SCR-91-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:47:12 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Craig Washofsky	Pacific Home and Appliance Distribution	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Simply put, I SUPPORT this resolution. This resolution would convene a task force to analyze the current building code process. Currently, the building code goes through numerous changes regularly, causing confusion, delays, and constantly adding costs. The current State Building Code Council also does not take into consideration the cost implications of adopting new codes. It is time to revisit this process to ensure cost-effective building for the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration

Craig Washofsky

President

Pacific Home and Appliance Distribution



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

**LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO**

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003  
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**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Hearing on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 2:15p.m., Conference Room 329

**RE:** TESTIMONY OF COMMENTS AND AMENDMENTS ON SCR91 SD1

Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in construction, telecommunications, Spectrum, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 supports the intent of a task force to evaluate existing building codes and deliberate on necessary updates and procedures for State Building Codes. Our concern is for codes that the primary purpose is for life, health, and safety, and the costs associated with building and construction should not be prioritized over those principles. The National Electrical Code (NEC) and Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) are written and adopted for the express purpose of “safeguarding persons and property from hazards” that may arise from the work and functions associated with these codes.

Licensed journeyworker electricians are trained and licensed specifically in the NEC, and undergo 10,000 hours of supervised training in order to complete the requirements for licensing. Licensed plumbers undergo similar training and requirements under the UPC.

Any task force that is created to evaluate the NEC and/or the UPC should have knowledgeable experts trained in these specific codes. We ask this Committee to amend the resolution to include the following on the task force:

One representative from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186; and One representative from the Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

**SCR-91-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:02:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter Eldridge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION. The frequent mandatory revisions to the building code without review/recommendations from both industry and concerned citizens and without regard to costs to the construction so affected causes homes to cost more needlessly and for homelessness to increase.

Please pass this measure to slow down the rapid escalation in home prices and to allow common sense input before new standards are adopted.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-91-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 3:10:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Thielen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The building code adoption process is not working and it is having negative consequences for housing affordability. The process needs an overhaul. Please pass this resolution and create this task force to work on this.