
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL, BUILDING DEPARTMENTS OF EACH COUNTY, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, AND CHAIRS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEES ON HOUSING TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR ADOPTING UPDATED BUILDING CODES.

1 WHEREAS, building codes are a multi-tiered set of rules and
2 standards at the local, state, and federal levels that govern
3 construction to safeguard public safety and the longevity of
4 infrastructure; and

5
6 WHEREAS, increasingly frequent natural disasters make
7 constructing resilient, stable structures of vital importance to
8 public safety; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the State's building codes are governed by
11 multiple bodies, including the State Building Code Council,
12 county-level building and planning departments, and the
13 Legislature; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Governor Josh Green's 2023 Proclamation Relating
16 to Affordable Housing sought to fast track the construction of
17 housing, especially on Maui, but has had the unintended
18 consequence of suspending the State Building Code Council and
19 adopting unamended building codes formulated by the
20 International Code Council; and

21
22 WHEREAS, as many of the unamended codes do not apply to the
23 State, such as those for snow, Governor Green issued another
24 proclamation allowing counties not to abide by the 2021 building
25 code, meaning contractors now face unclear directives that
26 jeopardize construction and public safety; and

27
28 WHEREAS, the State's building codes must now be amended to
29 comply with national standards, offer contractors clarity, and
30 reflect local issues and updated best practices for expedient,
31 safe construction; now, therefore,



1
2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
4 that the Office of the Governor, State Building Code Council,
5 building departments of each county, Mayors of each county, and
6 chairs of the standing committees on housing in the Senate and
7 House of Representatives are urged to develop a comprehensive
8 strategy for the statewide adoption of updated building codes;
9 and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive strategy is
12 requested to be formulated through stakeholder engagement and
13 address the feasibility of compliance with updated codes; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; members of the State
17 Building Code Council; Director, Supervisor, or Chief of the
18 building departments of each county, Mayor of each county, and
19 the chairs of the standing committees on housing in the Senate
20 and House of Representatives.

