

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that several U.S. cities  
2 and at least one state incorporate sustainable building  
3 practices into affordable housing initiatives. One particular  
4 model is California's Green Building Standards Code, known as  
5 "CALGreen". The purpose of CALGreen is to "improve public  
6 health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and  
7 construction of buildings through the use of building concepts  
8 having a reduced negative impact or positive environmental  
9 impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices."

10       The legislature further finds that green building practices  
11 can positively contribute to housing affordability. This  
12 includes lower energy bills for residents due to energy-  
13 efficient buildings that use less electricity and water, reduced  
14 operating costs resulting from sustainable construction  
15 practices, such as better insulation and high-efficiency climate  
16 control systems, and greater durability and maintenance from  
17 sustainable materials and construction techniques that extend



1 the lifespan of a building and reduce maintenance costs. Also,  
2 many green building programs offer financial incentives, tax  
3 credits, and grants for incorporating sustainable practices,  
4 which can offset the initial costs of green construction thus  
5 making it more feasible for affordable housing developers.  
6 Finally, green buildings often provide healthier indoor  
7 environments with better air quality and natural lighting that  
8 can lead to improved health outcomes (and reduced healthcare  
9 costs) for residents.

10 The purpose of this Act is to adopt a green building  
11 standards code.

12 SECTION 2. Section 107-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§107-25 Hawaii state building codes; requirements.** There  
15 is established the Hawaii state building codes applicable to all  
16 construction in the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii state building  
17 codes shall be based upon:

18 (1) The state fire code as adopted by the state fire  
19 council;



- 1           (2) The Uniform Plumbing Code, as copyrighted and  
2           published by the International Association of Plumbing  
3           and Mechanical Officials, including its appendices;  
4           (3) The International Building Code, the International  
5           Residential Code, and the International Energy  
6           Conservation Code, as published by the International  
7           Code Council;  
8           (4) The National Electrical Code, as published by the  
9           National Fire Protection Association;  
10          (5) Hawaii design standards implementing the criteria  
11          pursuant to Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii,  
12          2005, as applicable to:  
13            (A) Emergency shelters built to comply with hurricane  
14            resistant criteria, including enhanced hurricane  
15            protection areas capable of withstanding a five  
16            hundred-year hurricane event as well as other  
17            storms and natural hazards; and  
18            (B) Essential government facilities requiring  
19            continuity of operations; ~~and~~  
20          (6) Code provisions based on nationally published codes or  
21          standards that include but are not limited to



1 residential and hurricane resistant standards related  
2 to loss mitigation standards in accordance with  
3 section 431P-12, elevator, mechanical, flood and  
4 tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage  
5 disposal[~~-~~]; and

6 (7) Hawaii green building standards adopted pursuant to  
7 Act \_\_\_\_\_, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025."

8 SECTION 3. The state building code council shall develop  
9 and adopt a green building standards code similar to the  
10 California Green Building Standards Code, part 11, title 24,  
11 California Code of Regulations.

12 The state building code council, no later than twenty days  
13 prior to the convening of the 2026 regular session, shall submit  
14 a report to the legislature regarding the development of the  
15 green building standards code.

16 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 632

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Karl Rhoads*



# S.B. NO. 632

**Report Title:**

State Building Code; State Building Code Council; Green Building Standards Code

**Description:**

Requires the State Building Code Council to develop and adopt a green building standards code.

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

