DEPT. COMM. NO. 321

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

December 23, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the State of Hawai'i Department of Accounting and General Services Annual Report on The Building Code Council, December 2025, pursuant to Section 107-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at: https://ags.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/state-building-code-council/.

Sincerely,

KEITH A. REGAN
Comptroller

Enclosure

bc: Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Legislative Reference Bureau
Legislative Auditor
Department of Budget and Finance

STATE OF HAWAIʻI

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT ON

THE STATE BUILDING CODE

COUNCIL DECEMBER 2025

SUBMITTED TO

THE THIRTY-THIRD STATE LEGISLATURE

IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 107-30, HRS

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES (DAGS)
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 2025

Summary

The State Building Code Council (SBCC) was suspended in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing.[1]

Background

Pursuant to Section 107-30, Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes (HRS), the SBCC is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular legislative session on the SBCC's activities and accomplishments. Sections 107-21 – 107-31, HRS, delineate the duties, responsibilities and scope of the SBCC. It is responsible for reviewing and approving nationally recognized minimum requirements for design and construction to safeguard life, property and the general welfare. These requirements are formulated in national codes and standards relating to buildings, residences, electrical, plumbing, fire, energy, etc. The SBCC is required to adopt State building codes from the national codes and standards within two years of their publication date, or the national code or standard shall automatically become the State code, until superseded by the adoption of the amended version of the national code. Realizing the value and importance of the SBCC's mission, its "voluntary" membership continued to meet to work on national model building code updates and amendments until suspended by the Governor's Proclamations on Affordable Housing. The meetings are held in virtual and open forum pursuant to HRS Chapter 92. More information regarding Hawaiʻi State Building Codes, investigative committees, code adoption timelines, meeting agendas and minutes, can be found at: http://ags.hawaii.gov/bcc/.

Historically, investigative committees, comprised of subject matter experts, produce and complete statewide specific technical draft amendments to the national model codes and standards, are reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee of Building Officials (SBO). The Council then reviews the approved draft amendments while allowing an open comment period before approving the final amendments. The national codes and standards with approved statewide technical amendments apply to all State design and construction within one year of its effective date and are the basis for the respective county building codes. Administration and enforcement of these codes are primarily done by the counties. The governing body of each county amends, adopts, and updates the Hawaiʻi State Building Codes as they apply within their jurisdiction without approval of the Council within two years after the adoption of each State Building Code. If the county does not amend the State Building Codes within the two years, the Hawaii State Building Codes become applicable as an interim county building code. The two-year mandate helps the counties initiate timely action in their county ordinance adoption process for each state building code.

The application and enforcement of these codes result in: (1) substantial savings in long-term operating, energy, and construction costs for publicly and privately owned and operated facilities; (2) construction of homes which are better protected from the effects of natural and man-made disasters; (3) businesses and an economy in Hawaii which are more resilient in the aftermath of disasters. Updating building codes generally reduces long-term lifecycle costs.

[1] Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi. (2025, November 18). *Sixteenth Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing* (Proclamation No. 2511043-ATG). State of Hawaiʻi. https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2511043-ATG_Sixteenth-Proclamation-Relating-to-Affordable-Housing.pdf

Current Membership

The State Building Code Council members and their affiliations are:

1. Howard Wiig, Chair, State Energy Office,
   Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)
2. Lyle Carden, Vice Chair, Structural Engineers Association of Hawai‘i
3. Leolynne Escalona, County of Kaua‘i
4. Clement Ching, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
5. Donald Aweau, Director, Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency
6. Daniel Moats, American Institute of Architects, Hawai‘i State Council
7. Dawn Amano, City and County of Honolulu
8. Gary Lum, State Fire Council.
9. Kevin Hirayama, Subcontractors Association of Hawai‘i
10. Robert Tanaka, County of Hawai‘i
11. Lance Nakamura, County of Maui
12. Geena Theilen, Building Industry Association of Hawai‘i
13. Keith Regan, Comptroller, Department of Accounting and General Services (non-voting)

Since the SBCC has not met and membership is voluntary, both membership and leadership will likely change when the SBCC reconvenes. Notably, Howard Wiig will be stepping down from the Chair role.

Achievements During the Year

There were no achievements for the year in accordance with the Governor’s Proclamation on Affordable Housing.

Scope of Work Conducted or Initiated During the Year

There was no work conducted in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Proclamations on Affordable Housing.

Annual Operating Cost of the Council is estimated to be $150,000 (carried over from the previous year’s report). Since its inception in 2007, the SBCC has not received funding for staff personnel or operating costs. Besides reviewing national codes and standards and formulating a state amendment package, volunteer members are tasked with responding to code inquiries, submitting legislative testimony and preparing and finalizing meeting agendas, minutes and annual reports in accordance with State Sunshine law requirements.

While it may provide some assistance, even one-time funding appropriations do not significantly address this issue. State Building Code Council members support having permanently funded positions that can be used to administer the codes, set timelines, initiate cost-benefit studies of key future code changes, assist in the formatting of technical provisions, improve communication with the public, as these and other roles cannot be thoroughly performed with the volunteer members.

In accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Proclamations, the SBCC did not meet, did not promulgate code amendments and updates, and did not meet the statutory deadlines for providing state amendments to the building codes. As a result, the 2021 model Codes for IBC, IRC, and IECC were adopted by default in the State without state amendments. However, because the counties prefer amended codes, the 2018 suite of I-codes is currently in effect at the county level.