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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the counties suffer  
2 from a shortage of licensed professional engineers serving in  
3 their various planning departments, contributing to lengthy plan  
4 review periods. The legislature further finds that there are  
5 certain higher-level engineering positions in county planning  
6 departments that require candidates to be licensed as  
7 professional engineers. For example, in the department of  
8 planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu,  
9 promotion to the position of supervisory engineer requires a  
10 candidate to be licensed as a professional engineer. The  
11 legislature additionally finds that in order for candidates to  
12 be eligible for professional engineering licensure, they must  
13 have a certain amount of lawful experience in engineering work.  
14 Currently, compliance review of plans for construction does not  
15 qualify as lawful experience in engineering work. However, this  
16 is the core responsibility of many engineers in county planning  
17 departments, meaning the experience they accumulate does not



1 count toward lawful experience in engineering work for the  
2 purposes of professional licensure. This may present a  
3 disincentive to potential applicants from seeking employment  
4 opportunities in county planning departments and encourage  
5 current employees to move to the private sector.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to permit county  
7 employees to use their experience in code compliance review to  
8 meet the lawful experience in engineering work requirements  
9 needed for licensure as a professional engineer.

10 SECTION 2. Section 464-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) No person shall be eligible for licensure as a  
13 professional engineer unless:

14 (1) The person is the holder of an unexpired license  
15 issued to the person by any jurisdiction, domestic or  
16 foreign, in which the requirements for licensure at  
17 the time the person was first licensed are of a  
18 standard satisfactory to the board; provided that if  
19 the board is in doubt as to whether the standards are  
20 satisfactory, or as to whether the holder was required  
21 to fully comply with them, it shall require that the



holder successfully pass a written examination,  
prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
holder's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
profession of engineering;

(2) The person ~~[is the]~~:

(A) Is the holder of a master's degree in engineering  
from an institution of higher education approved  
by the board; ~~[is]~~

(B) Is a graduate of a school or college approved by  
the board as of satisfactory standing and has  
completed an engineering curriculum of four years  
or more; ~~[has had]~~

(C) Has three years of full-time lawful experience in  
engineering work of a character satisfactory to  
the board, or part-time experience ~~[which]~~ that  
the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and  
~~[has]~~

(D) Has successfully passed a written examination,  
prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
person's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
profession of engineering;



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1           (3) The person [~~is-the~~]:

2           (A) Is the holder of a master's degree in engineering  
3                       from an institution of higher education approved  
4                       by the board; [~~has-had~~]

5           (B) Has four years of full-time lawful experience in  
6                       engineering work of a character satisfactory to  
7                       the board, or part-time experience [~~which~~] that  
8                       the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and  
9                       [~~has~~]

10          (C) Has successfully passed a written examination,  
11                       prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
12                       person's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
13                       profession of engineering;

14          (4) The person [~~is-a~~]:

15          (A) Is a graduate of a school or college approved by  
16                       the board as of satisfactory standing, and has  
17                       completed an engineering curriculum of four years  
18                       or more; [~~has-had~~]

19          (B) Has four years of full-time lawful experience in  
20                       engineering work of a character satisfactory to  
21                       the board, or part-time experience [~~which~~] that



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1 the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and

2 [~~has~~]

3 (C) Has successfully passed a written examination,  
4 prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
5 person's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
6 profession of engineering;

7 (5) The person [~~is a~~]:

8 (A) Is a graduate of a school or college approved by  
9 the board as of satisfactory standing, and has  
10 completed an engineering technology or arts and  
11 science curriculum of four years or more; [~~has~~  
12 ~~had~~]

13 (B) Has eight years of full-time lawful experience in  
14 engineering work of a character satisfactory to  
15 the board, or part-time experience [~~which~~] that  
16 the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and  
17 [~~has~~]

18 (C) Has successfully passed a written examination,  
19 prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
20 person's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
21 profession of engineering; or



1 (6) The person has [~~had twelve~~]:

2 (A) Twelve years of full-time lawful experience in  
3 engineering work of a character satisfactory to  
4 the board, or part-time experience [~~which~~] that  
5 the board finds to be the equivalent thereof; and  
6 [~~has successfully~~]

7 (B) Successfully passed a written examination,  
8 prescribed by the board and designed to test the  
9 person's knowledge, skill, and competency in the  
10 profession of engineering.

11 For purposes of this subsection, "lawful experience in  
12 engineering work" for county employees includes code compliance  
13 review of plans for construction applicable to the specific  
14 engineering field."

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:

*ZMC*  
JAN 20 2026



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**Report Title:**

Professional Engineers; County Employees; Licensure;  
Qualifications; Lawful Experience in Engineering Work; Code  
Compliance Review of Plans

**Description:**

Clarifies that a county employee's code compliance review of plans for construction applicable to the specific engineering field is considered lawful experience in engineering work for purposes of professional engineering licensure.

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

