
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



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

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

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

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

13 (C) Has three 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 (D) 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;



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

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~~]

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]



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~~]

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:

2 NC

JAN 20 2026



H.B. NO. 1720

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.

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