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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Simplifying  
2 Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) task force  
3 was established pursuant to Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii  
4 2025. The SPEED task force brought together various state and  
5 county agencies and stakeholders to address issues related to  
6 obtaining permits for housing, infrastructure, and other  
7 projects. The legislature further finds that the SPEED task  
8 force is responsible for identifying actions taken, challenges  
9 encountered, and legislative measures needed to facilitate,  
10 expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental permitting  
11 processes.

12 In its initial phase, the SPEED task force split into three  
13 permitted interaction groups, each focused on a specific, high-  
14 impact segment of the permitting system. The SPEED task force  
15 then submitted to the legislature a December 2025 final report  
16 of the permitted interaction groups, representing a combined  
17 report of the three permitted interaction groups, which outlined



1 findings regarding existing actions and persistent challenges  
2 and presented initial recommendations for legislative and  
3 administrative measures to improve permitting processes  
4 statewide.

5 The December 2025 final report recommends additional  
6 training and professional development for state and county  
7 permitting agency employees as part of a key policy change to  
8 improve the permitting process. The final report also finds  
9 that further training opportunities focused on new building  
10 codes, digital tools, and emerging technologies could help  
11 reduce interpretation errors and improve overall permit issuance  
12 times.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
14 state building code council to provide annual training to state  
15 and county permitting agency employees.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 §107- Annual training; building codes; state and  
20 county permitting agency employees. (a) In addition to the  
21 duties under section 107-24, the council shall provide annual



1 training to state and county permitting agency employees,  
2 including but not limited to plan reviewers, inspectors, and  
3 policy staff. The training shall provide:

- 4       (1) Guidance on changes made to building codes and  
5       standards;  
6       (2) A practical application component, providing employees  
7       examples of how code changes impact common projects;  
8       (3) An overview of how to use any digital tools, including  
9       artificial intelligence tools, that may be available  
10      to assist with permit intake and review; and  
11      (4) Best practices for providing clear, consistent  
12      comments and feedback to applicants for permit  
13      applications.

14       (b) The training shall include recorded modules provided  
15      to all applicable state and county permitting agency employees."

16       SECTION 3. Section 107-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17      amended by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

18       "(g) The council may, in addition to the annual training  
19      required pursuant to section 107- , provide education and  
20      technical training and administrative assistance in the form of  
21      services or grants at the state and county levels relating to



1 the implementation and enforcement of the Hawaii state building  
2 codes adopted pursuant to this part."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
6 state building code council to provide annual training to state  
7 and county permitting agency employees; provided that no funds  
8 shall be made available under this Act unless each county  
9 provides matching funds in the sum of \$6,250 per county.

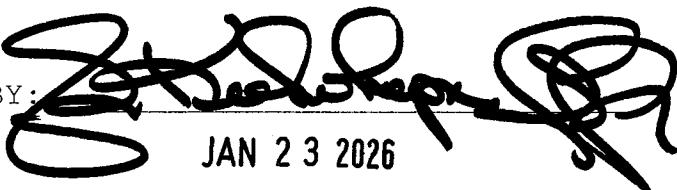
10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state  
11 building code council for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 1964

**Report Title:**

State Building Code Council; Counties; Annual Training; Building Codes; Permitting Agency Employees; Appropriation

**Description:**

Implements certain recommendations of the SPEED Task Force. Requires the State Building Code Council to provide annual training to state and county permitting agency employees. Appropriates funds for the training, subject to a matching funds requirement from the counties.

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

