

JAN 21 2026

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 state building
2 code council was established by Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii
3 2007, to create and implement the state building code. The
4 legislature further finds that health and safety considerations
5 relating to the state building code are matters of statewide
6 concern.

7 The legislature also finds that the state building code
8 council has struggled with limited funding and insufficient
9 staffing since its creation. Most members of the council are
10 government officials lacking the required knowledge and
11 experience, and as a result, amendments to the state building
12 code often do not pertain to public health or safety and are
13 adopted without analysis of financial impact; input from
14 residential, commercial, and industrial builders; or
15 consideration of the resulting increase in the overall cost of
16 construction. In addition, the law requires the state building
17 code to be based on various codes, including the International



1 Building Code, which is updated every three years. This
2 triennial updating process places significant burdens on the
3 short-staffed state building code council. The frequent updates
4 also burden the staff of county building departments who spend
5 hundreds of hours revising their respective county building
6 codes, which in turn places additional burdens on the
7 construction industry by requiring employees to learn the
8 updated code and retrain workers. These burdens are ultimately
9 borne by consumers in the form of increased building costs and
10 delays in permit processing.

11 The legislature believes that increasing the number of
12 members on the state building code council who have knowledge of
13 the state building code will help to alleviate some of the
14 burdens associated with the updating process. Currently, a
15 representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii
16 and a representative of the General Contractors Association of
17 Hawaii alternate serving four-year terms on the council. The
18 legislature believes that, since the state building code
19 knowledge offered by these two entities is so critical to the
20 council's efforts, representatives of both entities should have
21 permanent, standing memberships on the council.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to make both the
2 representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii
3 and the representative of the General Contractors Association of
4 Hawaii permanent, standing members of the building code council.

5 SECTION 2. Section 107-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

7 "(a) There is established a state building code council.
8 The council shall be placed within the department of accounting
9 and general services for administrative purposes only. The
10 council shall consist of ~~[twelve]~~ thirteen voting members and
11 one nonvoting member, who shall be the comptroller or the
12 comptroller's designee. The council members shall serve
13 four-year terms. The voting members shall include:

14 (1) One county building official from each of the four
15 counties appointed by the mayor;
16 (2) One member representing the state fire council;
17 (3) One member representing the department of labor and
18 industrial relations, who has significant experience
19 in elevator safety;



1 (4) One member representing the Hawaii state energy office
2 of the department of business, economic development,
3 and tourism;

4 (5) One member representing the Hawaii emergency
5 management agency, appointed by the director of Hawaii
6 emergency management;

7 (6) One member representing the Structural Engineers
8 Association of Hawaii;

9 (7) One member representing the American Institute of
10 Architects, Hawaii State Council;

11 (8) One member representing the Building Industry
12 Association of Hawaii ~~[or the General Contractors~~
13 ~~Association of Hawaii]~~ who has significant experience
14 with building codes~~[, with alternating four-year terms~~
15 ~~between the two organizations and the first four-year~~
16 ~~term to be served by the Building Industry Association~~
17 ~~of Hawaii; and]~~;

18 (9) One member representing the Subcontractors'
19 Association of Hawaii, who has significant experience
20 with building codes~~[.]~~; and



1 (10) One member representing the General Contractors
2 Association of Hawaii who has significant experience
3 with building codes."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2339

Report Title:

State Building Code Council; Department of Accounting and General Services; Membership; Building Industry Association of Hawaii; General Contractors Association of Hawaii

Description:

Makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council, instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.

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