

JAN 28 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 delays,
2 inconsistencies, and lack of transparency in state and county
3 building permitting processes increase the cost of housing,
4 infrastructure, and economic development projects across the
5 State. While each county administers its own permitting
6 systems, the absence of standardized data reporting and
7 statewide visibility into permitting timelines and bottlenecks
8 limits the State's ability to identify systemic challenges,
9 deploy technical assistance, and improve regulatory efficiency.

10 The legislature further finds that the state building code
11 council plays a central role in establishing statewide building
12 standards, coordinating with counties, and advancing code
13 modernization efforts. However, the council currently lacks
14 dedicated staffing capacity to support ongoing data collection,
15 analysis, training coordination, and transparency initiatives
16 related to permitting performance.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to strengthen the
2 capacity of the state building code council by:

- 3 (1) Establishing a permanent full-time position to support
4 statewide building code coordination, permitting
5 transparency and modernization initiative;
6 (2) Requiring consistent county reporting on building
7 permitting performance;
8 (3) Developing a standardized statewide permitting data
9 system or public dashboard; and
10 (4) Improving consistency and professionalism in
11 permitting administration through standardized
12 credentialing and training requirements.

13 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the state
14 building code council one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
15 permanent position to support statewide building code
16 coordination, permitting transparency, and modernization
17 initiatives.

18 (b) The duties of the position shall include but not be
19 limited to:

- 20 (1) Coordinating the collection, analysis, and publication
21 of county permitting data;



- (2) Supporting the development and maintenance of a standardized statewide permitting data system or public dashboard;
- (3) Advancing state building code modernization and transparency initiatives in coordination with relevant county and state agencies; and
- (4) Developing and supporting standardized credentialing and training requirements for permitting officials in coordination with county agencies.

SECTION 3. (a) Each county shall submit to the state building code council, in a form and manner prescribed by the council, periodic reports on building permitting performance, including but not limited to:

- (1) Average and median permitting timelines by permit type;
- (2) Permit volumes and backlogs;
- (3) Identified permitting bottlenecks or capacity constraints; and
- (4) Other metrics determined by the council to support transparency and performance evaluation.



1 (b) The state building code council shall compile and
2 publish the information obtained as required by subsection (a)
3 through a standardized statewide permitting data system or
4 publicly accessible dashboard.

5 SECTION 4. (a) The state building code council shall
6 establish or designate a standardized statewide permitting data
7 system or public dashboard to improve transparency,
8 accountability, and coordination across counties.

9 (b) The system or dashboard shall, to the extent
10 practicable:

11 (1) Provide consistent, comparable permitting performance
12 metrics across counties;

13 (2) Allow for identification of systemic bottlenecks and
14 best practices; and

15 (3) Support data-driven improvements to permitting
16 processes and building code administration.

17 SECTION 5. (a) The state building code council shall
18 develop recommended statewide standards for credentialing,
19 training, and continuing education for permitting officials, in
20 consultation with county agencies and other relevant
21 stakeholders.



1 (b) The standards shall be advisory in nature unless
2 otherwise provided by law and shall be intended to promote
3 consistency, professionalism, and efficiency in permitting
4 administration statewide.

5 SECTION 6. (a) The state building code council shall
6 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
7 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
9 2028.

10 (b) The report shall include the following:

- 11 (1) Implementation status of the permanent position;
12 (2) County compliance with permitting data reporting;
13 (3) Progress on the statewide permitting data system or
14 dashboard; and
15 (4) Recommendations for further statutory or
16 administrative action.

17 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
20 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position as
21 established by section 2 of this Act.



S.B. NO. 3048

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

3 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

4

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3048

Report Title:

State Building Code Council; Permitting Transparency; Data Reporting; Modernization; Staffing; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes one permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position for the State Building Code Council to support statewide building code coordination, permitting transparency, and modernization initiatives. Requires county reporting on building permitting performance. Requires the State Building Code Council to develop a standardized statewide permitting data system or public dashboard. Requires the development of a state building code modernization and transparency initiative. Requires the State Building Code Council to develop standardized credentials and training requirements for permitting officials. Requires a report. Appropriates funds.

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

