

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3229**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 30 2026**

RE: H.B. No. 1964  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1964, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Implement certain recommendations of the Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development Task Force;
- (2) Require the State Building Code Council to provide annual training to state and county permitting agency employees; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for the training, subject to a matching requirement from the counties.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Small Business Regulatory Review Board, American Institute of Architects Hawaii, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Land Use Research Foundation, and Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce.



Your Committees find that accelerating the permitting process is a foundational component of the State's housing initiatives. Without more efficient permitting and regulatory processes, the State will continue to experience insufficient housing production to meet current and future demand. Your Committees further find that professional development and specialized training for permitting staff are essential tools for accelerating permitting processes, which will allow for increased housing production statewide. By requiring the State Building Code Council to provide annual training to state and county permitting agency employees, this measure takes a critical step toward more efficient regulatory processes and expanded housing production.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2055, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that, while this measure makes important contributions to permitting efficiency, it does not fully address existing problems. Specifically, the State Building Code Council has faced significant challenges in recent years, including periods in which it has not met regularly or promulgated code updates due to a lack of dedicated staff. To address this issue, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2026 contains an appropriation for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions and other expenses for the State Building Code Council. Without additional funds, the effects of this measure may be limited. However, your Committees also note the potentially high costs of establishing additional positions to provide permitting training. Your Committees find that these issues raise concerns that merit further consideration and respectfully request further examination by your Committee on Ways and Means, should it choose to deliberate on this measure.


As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1964, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass



Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1964,  
H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and  
Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Public Safety and  
Military Affairs and Energy and  
Intergovernmental Affairs,


  
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GLENN WAKAI, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**  
**PSM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB1964 HD2	PSM/ELG, WAM	3/23/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	✓			
LEE, Chris (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink File with Committee Report    Committee                      Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

