

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3406**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2026

RE: S.R. No. 64

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.R. No. 64 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the State Building Code Council.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Accounting and General Services, RMA Sales, and Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of the Auditor.

Your Committee finds that implementation of building codes in the State has become an unwieldy and inefficient process, leading to a patchwork of county-level rules that contribute to construction delays and higher housing costs. Under existing law, the State Building Code Council must adopt every iteration of the International Building Code and related codes within two years of the iteration being released. The counties then have an additional two years to make amendments to the State Building Code and adopt the new standards. However, the State and counties struggle to meet these deadlines. Consequently, builders and

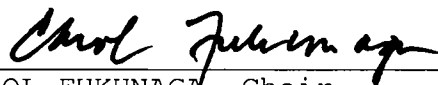


architects must constantly update their practices to conform to different building codes for each county. By requesting the Auditor to conduct an audit of the State Building Code Council, this measure will help identify areas for improved efficiency in developing building codes in the State.

Your Committee notes the testimony of the Office of the Auditor expressing concerns that Government Auditing Standards require the Office to be independent of the agencies, programs, and political subdivisions that it audits. To maintain that independence, the Office of the Auditor is unable to participate in program management decisions and therefore cannot assess proposed changes to the role of counties in developing and implementing the State Building Code. Your Committee further notes that another agency, such as the Department of Accounting and General Services, which oversees the State Building Code Council, or Legislature Reference Bureau may be better suited to perform the study requested by this measure. Your Committee finds that this issue raises concerns that merit further consideration and requests further examination by your Committee on Ways and Means, should it choose to deliberate on this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 64 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,




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:		
SR 64	PSM, WAM	3/30/26		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input 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	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes