



**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Conference Room 411
State Capitol
9:00 AM**

February 12, 2026

Subject: HB 1712 - RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Committee:

My name is Roseann Freitas, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii offers the following testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1712, Relating to the State Building Code Council. This bill makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council (SBCC), instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.

Because BIA-Hawaii specializes in the residential code, and the General Contractors' Association specializes in the commercial code, it makes practical sense that they hold separate seats instead of alternating. Further, the SBCC is currently made up of nine members representing some aspect of the government, and only four members representing the building industry.

Our members are directly responsible for implementing the building codes adopted by the Hawaii State Building Code Council, and we see firsthand how these codes affect housing costs, construction timelines, and project feasibility. HB 1712 promotes fairness and balance by ensuring that the professionals who must actually apply and comply with building codes have an appropriate voice in the process. Building codes are technical standards that must work in the real world, on real job sites, under Hawaii's unique environmental, logistical, and economic conditions.

Hawaii already faces some of the highest building costs in the nation, and the result is our housing crisis. Code changes can sometimes unnecessarily add significant construction expenses. Including more building industry professionals in the code development and adoption process would help provide the Council with much needed real-world information, such as the availability of materials and technologies in Hawaii, potential impacts on project timelines and permitting, and actual cost of amendments.

HB 1712 does not diminish the importance of safety, resilience, or sustainability. A well-rounded council leads to better-vetted decisions, fewer implementation problems, and smoother coordination with county building departments and the construction community.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:56:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tommy O'Donnell	BIA of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 10, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1712 RELATING TO CODES

Hrg: February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I am writing to express my support for HB1712, which will strengthen the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council by making the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i (BIA Hawai'i) and the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i (GCA Hawai'i) permanent, standing members of the council. BIA Hawai'i focuses on the residential and housing sector, supporting homebuilders, remodelers, and suppliers with training, advocacy, and consumer education. GCA Hawai'i represents the full spectrum of commercial and heavy construction, including large infrastructure, public works, military projects, and commercial development.

Currently, these two industry experts alternate four-year terms, which limits consistent technical input from all construction sectors during the frequent and complex building code update cycles. By ensuring continuous representation from both organizations, HB1712 enhances the council's ability to incorporate practical industry knowledge, improve the analysis of financial impacts, and streamline the adoption of building code updates. This stability supports more efficient code development, reduces unnecessary burdens on county departments and the construction industry, and ultimately benefits Hawai'i residents by helping to control building costs and reduce permitting delays.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB1712. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas O'Donnell

O'Donnell Construction, LLC

General Contractor BC24360

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:56:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1712 relating to Building Codes, with respect to permanent standing membership by representatives of BIA and GCA on the State Building Code Council.

Thank you.

Lance Luke, Construction Management Inspection LLC

Hawaii Building Expert, Member of ICC

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffanie Gardner	Top Priority, Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1712

Relating to the State Building Code Council

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is [Tiffanie Gardner] and I submit this testimony in strong support of H.B. 1712, which increases the membership of the State Building Code Council to include permanent representatives from both the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii) and the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA).

Hawaii’s building code plays a critical role in protecting public health and safety. At the same time, it directly affects the cost, timing, and feasibility of residential, commercial, and industrial construction across the State. Because of this dual impact, it is essential that the State Building Code Council include members with substantial, practical, and current knowledge of how building codes function in real-world construction environments.

Currently, representatives from BIA-Hawaii and GCA alternate four-year terms. While both organizations bring critical technical expertise and industry knowledge, the alternating structure limits continuity, institutional knowledge, and long-term participation in the code development process. Given the complexity of the International Building Code updates every three years and the significant workload placed on the Council, consistency and depth of experience are essential.

Making both representatives permanent, standing members will:

- Strengthen technical expertise on the Council
- Improve continuity during the triennial code adoption cycle
- Enhance collaboration between government and industry
- Provide better evaluation of financial and practical impacts before amendments are adopted
- Help minimize unnecessary increases in construction costs and project delays

Construction in Hawaii is already among the most expensive in the nation. Code updates that lack sufficient industry analysis can unintentionally increase costs, delay permitting, and place additional burdens on homeowners, renters, businesses, and public projects. Ensuring that both

BIA-Hawaii and GCA have a permanent voice at the table will support thoughtful, balanced, and well-informed decision-making.

Importantly, this measure does not diminish public health or safety standards. Rather, it strengthens the Council's ability to evaluate proposed amendments thoroughly and implement building codes that are both safe and practical for Hawaii's unique conditions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass H.B. 1712.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffanie Gardner

COO

Top Priority, Inc



**TESTIMONY OF
KEVIN MURRAY
PRESIDENT AND OWNER
PHAD – PACIFIC HOME AND APPLIANCE DISTRIBUTION**

**H.B. 1712 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Murray, President and Owner of PHAD – Pacific Home and Appliance Distribution. We are the authorized GE Appliances distributor for Hawaii and also supply Bosch, Thermador, Fisher & Paykel, DCS, and many other brands. PHAD has assisted in supplying appliances on projects ranging from affordable housing to market-rate developments. We work with partners including Castle & Cooke, Gentry, Stanford Carr, Hawaii Home Lands, Hawaiian Dredging, Nordic PCL, and others to offer value-engineered appliance solutions that provide best-in-class home appliances for Hawaii families.

PHAD strongly supports H.B. 1712, which would make both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA) and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) permanent, standing members of the State Building Code Council.

Industry expertise is essential to sound building code decisions. As the bill’s findings correctly note, the State Building Code Council has been hampered by members who lack the requisite knowledge and experience with building codes. This has resulted in code amendments that do not pertain to public health or safety and are adopted without adequate analysis of financial impact or meaningful input from those who actually build in Hawaii. As an appliance distributor, PHAD experiences the downstream effects of building code decisions directly. When code amendments are adopted without industry input, they can lead to appliance specification changes mid-project, supply chain disruptions, and increased costs that are ultimately passed on to Hawaii’s homebuyers.

Permanent representation ensures continuity and consistency. Under the current alternating arrangement, the council loses critical building code expertise every four years when the BIA and GCA swap seats. This rotating structure undermines the council’s ability to maintain consistent, informed oversight of the triennial International Building Code update process—a process the bill rightly identifies as placing significant burdens on the council, county building departments, and the construction industry. For PHAD and our development partners, code consistency is essential to planning appliance packages for housing projects that may take years from design to occupancy.

Better building code governance supports Hawaii’s housing goals. Hawaii continues to face a critical shortage of affordable and attainable housing. Every unnecessary cost added through poorly considered code amendments makes it harder for developers to deliver homes at price points that local families can afford. By ensuring that both BIA and GCA have permanent voices on the council, H.B. 1712 will help ensure that code updates are grounded in practical construction reality and that their financial impacts on housing development are fully considered before adoption.



For these reasons, PHAD respectfully urges the Committee to pass H.B. 1712. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure. I am available to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Murray

President and Owner

PHAD – Pacific Home and Appliance Distribution

(808) 853-0581

kevin@phadhi.com



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February 10, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1712 RELATING TO CODES

Hrg: February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I am writing to express **my support for HB1712**, which will strengthen the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council by making the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA Hawaii) permanent, standing members of the council. BIA Hawaii focuses on the residential and housing sector, supporting homebuilders, remodelers, and suppliers with training, advocacy, and consumer education. GCA Hawaii represents the full spectrum of commercial and heavy construction, including large infrastructure, public works, military projects, and commercial development.

Currently, these two industry experts alternate four-year terms, which limits consistent technical input from all construction sectors during the frequent and complex building code update cycles. By ensuring continuous representation from both organizations, HB1712 enhances the council's ability to incorporate practical industry knowledge, improve the analysis of financial impacts, and streamline the adoption of building code updates. This stability supports more efficient code development, reduces unnecessary burdens on county departments and the construction industry, and ultimately benefits Hawaii residents by helping to control building costs and reduce permitting delays.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you **to support HB1712**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Borge
RMA Sales



February 11, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1712 RELATING TO CODES

Hearing: February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I am writing to express my support for HB1712, which I believe will strengthen the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council. HB1712 will make the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA Hawaii) permanent, standing members of the council.

BIA Hawaii focuses on the residential and housing sector, supporting homebuilders, remodelers, and suppliers with training, advocacy, and consumer education. GCA Hawaii represents the full spectrum of commercial and heavy construction, including large infrastructure, public works, military projects, and commercial development.

Currently, these two industry experts alternate four-year terms, a process which limits consistent technical input from all construction sectors during the frequent and complex building code update cycles. By ensuring continuous representation from both organizations, HB1712 enhances the council's ability to incorporate practical industry knowledge, improve the analysis of financial impacts, and streamline the adoption of building code updates. This stability supports more efficient code development, reduces unnecessary burdens on county departments and the construction industry, and ultimately benefits Hawaii residents by helping to control building costs and reduce permitting delays.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB1712. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Washofsky', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Washofsky
Director – Strategic Projects



Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs (WAL)
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026

Subject: Strong support for HB1712 – Relating to the State Building Code Council

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state with approximately 6,000 members, in addition to more than 250 diverse contractors ranging from mom-and-pop owned businesses to national companies.

HB1712 makes the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i permanent, standing members of the State Building Code Council (increasing membership from 12 to 13 voting members). This change eliminates the current alternating four-year terms and ensures consistent, dedicated expertise from key construction industry stakeholders.

The State Building Code Council plays a critical role in adopting and updating codes that directly affect public safety, construction costs, timelines, and workforce needs. Having both major contractor associations as permanent members will improve analysis of proposed changes — including financial and practical impacts on builders, counties, and consumers — while reducing delays and burdens from triennial code updates. This balanced representation strengthens the council's ability to promote safe, efficient, and cost-effective building practices that support Hawai'i's construction industry, union jobs, and community development.



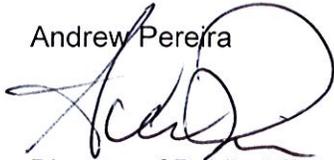
(Continued From Page 1)

We urge the committee to pass HB1712.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Pereira



Director of Public Affairs
Pacific Resource Partnership
1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 528-5557
Email: apereira@prp-hawaii.com
Website: www.prp-hawaii.com



February 11, 2026

TO: Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair
Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House of Representatives Committee on Water and Land

Hawaii State Council
A Chapter of the
American Institute of Architects

FROM: Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council

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AIA Hawaii
Center for Architecture
828 Fort St. Mall, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813-4452

T 808-628-7243
contact@aiahonolulu.org
aiahonolulu.org/hsc

1.1.19 ver.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB1712** which expands representation of the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and General Contractors Association of Hawai'i's presence on the State Building Code Council (SBCC).

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is a long standing advocate for strengthening SBCC's authority to advance building codes for the State of Hawai'i that improve the affordability of construction without compromising life safety, health, wellness or resiliency. The current composition of SBCC provides a balanced representation of county members, industry representatives, and technical expertise. HB1712, as written, would weaken this balance and increase special interest control over SBCC. The American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council stands in **strong opposition to HB1712**.

At present, the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and General Contractors Association of Hawai'i's currently share one SBCC seat, alternating representation every four years. Granting each organization its own voting seat, in addition to the existing subcontractor seat, would significantly increase contractor representation and create the perception that the council is dominated by contractors. This would erode public confidence in the code adoption process. Expanding voting seats for narrow trade groups without increasing parallel representation for public interest and technical stakeholders, such as code officials and licensed designed professions, sends the wrong signal about whose interests the State prioritizes in building codes.

Industry advocates may claim that additional industry votes will promote "affordability." However, experience in other jurisdictions shows that short term cost cutting at the code level can increase long term costs for homeowners and taxpayers. Weaker codes can lead to higher repair and reconstruction costs after disasters, higher insurance premiums, and premature obsolescence of buildings that are not energy ready or climate ready. True housing and infrastructure affordability in Hawai'i depends on durable, resilient, and efficient buildings. This in turn requires a code council that is structurally insulated from excessive industry influence.

Rather than expand voting seats for two specific trade associations, the Legislature could modernize the SBCC by adding independent code experts, resilience and climate specialists, and consumer representatives. These alternatives would address concerns about efficiency and responsiveness without compromising the council's duty to protect health, safety, and welfare. For these reasons, HB1712 should not advance in its current form, and the Legislature should instead pursue reforms that strengthen, rather than weaken, the balance and independence of the State Building Code Council.

AIA Hawaii welcomes the opportunity to work with the Legislature to refine SBCC's role so that it reflects intention and effectiveness of the Council.

Mahalo for your consideration. We look forward to continuing the conversation about how best to improve the State Building Code Council to benefit the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of Hawai'i's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Islam".

Melanie Islam, AIA
President
AIA Hawai'i



February 11, 2026

Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Dee Morikawa
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

Hearing date: February 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

RE: HB1712 – RELATING TO CODES

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of D.R. Horton Hawaii in support of HB1712 – Relating to Codes. D.R. Horton Hawaii is proud to be one of Hawaii's largest homebuilders, serving local families for more than 50 years. We specialize in providing affordable housing and first-time homebuyer opportunities across the state. Through sustainable and quality home designs, including our Ho'opili master-planned community in East Kapolei, we remain committed to addressing Hawaii's critical housing needs.

D.R. Horton Hawaii supports HB1712, a measure aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council (Council) by making the representatives from Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA Hawaii) permanent, standing members of the Council.

BIA Hawaii focuses on the residential and housing sector, while GCA Hawaii represents the full spectrum of commercial development, public works and military projects. Currently, these two organizations alternate four-year terms on the Council, limiting consistent technical input from all construction sectors during the frequent and complex building code update cycles. By ensuring continuous representation from both organizations, HB1712 will enhance the Council's ability to incorporate practical industry knowledge, improve the analysis of financial impacts and streamline the adoption of building code updates.



This stability supports more efficient code development, reduces unnecessary burdens on county departments and the construction industry, and ultimately benefits Hawaii residents by helping to control building costs and reduce permitting delays.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tracy Tonaki
President, D.R. Horton Hawaii



**Testimony to the House Committee on Water & Land
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:00AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

RE: HB1712 Relating to the State Building Council

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 1712 (HB1712), which 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 rather than alternating those positions every four years. This bill enhances institutional continuity and ensures consistent private-sector insight into building code development and implementation.

HB1712 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Economic Action. Predictable and efficient building code processes are vital to supporting construction activity, reducing project delays, and lowering costs for businesses and consumers. The existing practice of alternating membership between two key industry representatives every four years inadvertently creates discontinuity in technical expertise and industry-government collaboration, which can hinder the frequency and efficacy of code updates and contribute to inefficiencies that are ultimately passed on to consumers and developers. This continuity better aligns with the council's responsibility to update and administer the State Building Code. This is a process that is highly technical, iterative, and benefits from sustained expertise rather than periodic turnover. Permanent membership for these positions enhances efficiency, strengthens public-private collaboration, and contributes to a more predictable development environment in Hawaii.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 1712. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



February 11, 2026

State House of Representatives
Committee on Water and Land
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Reference: **House Bill 1712, Relating to the State Building Code Council**
Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2026, Room 411 at 9:00 am

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and Committee Members;

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 (“Local 675”) are one of three licensed crafts in Hawai‘i’s construction industry. Its member apprentices and journeymen are guided by and licensed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code whose primary purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Local 675 OPPOSES House Bill 1712 as written as it would further favor the representation and perspective of one sector of the construction industry over another. Doing so would not serve the best interest of the public.

Prior to the suspension of the state building code council, Local 675 was a very active participant in the building code process and provided significant and practical input. Plumbing systems in the built environment can be detrimental to public health if minimum standards are overlooked, short cuts are taken, or systems are not designed and /or constructed properly.

Currently, the state building code council is disproportionately represented by contractor associations and lack the same representation from those with practical knowledge and who actually perform the work. Bill 1712 as written will only exacerbate the matter. Although Local 675 supports efforts to save costs and find efficiencies, we simply cannot support doing so at the expense of the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Having a voice from the licensed trades will provide for a more balanced discussion and representation from a broader perspective.

As such, Local 675 respectfully requests that your Committee on Water and Land *consider amendments to HB1712 that increase the proposed membership by an additional two members to include a representative from the Plumbers and Fitters, Local 675 and a representative from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186* to ensure that such balanced discussions and deliberations occur. If you do not consider our proposed amendments, Local 675 respectfully requests that you HOLD this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB1712.

February 12, 2026

House Committee on Water and Land
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room #411 and via video conference

RE: HB 1712 Relating to Building Codes



Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae and Mākaha. We work on behalf of our members and the broader business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and to help West O'ahu businesses thrive.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong support of HB 1712**, which strengthens the effectiveness and continuity of the State Building Code Council by making representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i (BIA Hawai'i) and the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i (GCA Hawai'i) permanent, standing members of the council.

West O'ahu is the fastest-growing region in the state, with significant residential, commercial, and infrastructure development underway and planned for the years ahead. As growth accelerates, building code decisions have real and immediate impacts on housing supply, construction costs, project timelines, and permitting efficiency. Ensuring that the State Building Code Council consistently benefits from deep, practical expertise across both residential and commercial construction sectors is essential to keeping pace with this growth.

The Kapolei Chamber works with and supports both BIA Hawai'i and GCA Hawai'i through shared advocacy efforts, industry collaboration, and ongoing dialogue with developers, contractors, and policymakers. Each organization brings distinct and complementary expertise—BIA Hawai'i representing the residential and housing sector, and GCA Hawai'i representing commercial, heavy construction, infrastructure, and public works. Together, they reflect the full breadth of Hawai'i's construction industry.

Under the current rotating structure, these two organizations alternate four-year terms, which can result in gaps in institutional knowledge during complex and frequent building code update cycles. Establishing permanent representation from both BIA Hawai'i and GCA Hawai'i ensures continuity, strengthens technical review, and improves the council's ability to assess real-world implementation and financial impacts. This stability supports more informed code development, reduces unnecessary regulatory uncertainty, and helps minimize delays and cost escalation—outcomes that are especially critical in fast-growing regions like West O'ahu.

For these reasons, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce **supports HB 1712** and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Best,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO



February 12, 2026

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water and Land

Strong Support of HB 1712 RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL (Makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council, instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.)

**Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Via Videoconference.**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association founded in 1979, whose members include major Hawai'i landowners, developers, utility companies, and land use professionals. LURF's mission is to research, educate, and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, laws, and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth, agriculture, housing, renewable energy, commercial and industrial uses, and tourism, while safeguarding Hawai'i's significant natural, historic, and cultural resources, public health, and safety.

Collectively and over the past 46 years, LURF members have included homebuilders, developers, planning, architecture, engineering, and legal professionals that have helped to build the most affordable housing units in the State of Hawai'i by using the building codes and working collaboratively with all state and county housing agencies to build more homes for Hawai'i.

LURF is in **strong support of HB 1712.**

HB 1712. The purpose of this measure is to make both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i (BIA) and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i (GIA) permanent, standing members of the State Building Code Council.

LURF' POSITION. LURF appreciates the importance of building codes to protect life, health and safety and the challenges of keeping up with the ever-changing building codes. However, in recent years, some of the amendments to the state and county building codes were initiated by individuals who lacked professional expertise and knowledge of building codes applicable to single-family and multi-family homes. This lack of knowledge and experience resulted in building code amendments that exceeded reasonable national standards and substantially increased the cost of housing.

LURF believes that increasing the number of members of the State Building Code Council who have knowledge and practical experience with the State Building Code and homebuilding, and making those positions permanent, will help to facilitate the updating of the codes, will address the challenges and support the timely delivery of housing and other construction projects.

Based on the reasons stated above, LURF is in **strong support of HB 1712**, and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **support** of this proposed measure.



Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 12, 2026

TO: HONORABLE MARK HASHEM, CHAIR, HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, VICE CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND.

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF H.B. 1712, RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.** 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.

HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 411

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committees,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of approximately five hundred (500) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. Our mission is to elevate Hawaii's construction industry and strengthen the foundation of our community.

GCA **Supports** on H.B. 1712, which 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.

GCA specializes in the commercial building code, while BIA specializes in the residential building code. Having expertise from both perspectives on the State Building Code Council will benefit the public by ensuring that professionals who utilize the codes have an active role in its review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

QUALITY PEOPLE. QUALITY PROJECTS

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:43:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for HB1712, which will strengthen the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council by making the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA Hawaii) permanent, standing members of the council. BIA Hawaii focuses on the residential and housing sector, supporting homebuilders, remodelers, and suppliers with training, advocacy, and consumer education. GCA Hawaii represents the full spectrum of commercial and heavy construction, including large infrastructure, public works, military projects, and commercial development.

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:48:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lukas Petersons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1712 RELATING TO CODES

Hrg: February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I am writing to express my support for HB1712, which will strengthen the effectiveness of the State Building Code Council by making the representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) and the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA Hawaii) permanent, standing members of the council. BIA Hawaii focuses on the residential and housing sector, supporting homebuilders, remodelers, and suppliers with training, advocacy, and consumer education. GCA Hawaii represents the full spectrum of commercial and heavy construction, including large infrastructure, public works, military projects, and commercial development.

Currently, these two industry experts alternate four-year terms, which limits consistent technical input from all construction sectors during the frequent and complex building code update cycles. By ensuring continuous representation from both organizations, HB1712 enhances the council's ability to incorporate practical industry knowledge, improve the analysis of financial impacts,

and streamline the adoption of building code updates. This stability supports more efficient code development, reduces unnecessary burdens on county departments and the construction industry, and ultimately benefits Hawaii residents by helping to control building costs and reduce permitting delays.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB1712. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Lukas Petersons

HB-1712

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:16:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geena Thielen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1712 Relating to Codes to bring more balance to the SBCC.