

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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HOPE PO'O

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2ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O KUALUA

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2026
Conference Room 308

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1725, HD 1, RELATING TO BUILDING
CODES

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports and offers comments** on House Bill No. 1725, HD 1, which fixes the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments for the life of a building permit, subject to certain exceptions and rules. This bill also specifies the applicability of the International Residential Code, and authorizes a county to adopt amendments to the Hawai'i state building code, under certain circumstances, and repeals the counties' existing authority

DPP concurs that code consistency throughout the life of a project and associated permits can significantly simplify the plan preparation, review, construction and administrative burdens associated with code changes. This legislation will benefit plan reviewing agencies, plan preparers, the construction industry and the public. We provide the following suggestions:

Amend the Section (e) to prevent undermining the justification of point-in-time applicability.

“(e) The applicable code fixed under this section shall remain in effect for the life of the permit and any extension request granted by the county’s permit expiration rule; provided that the applicant diligently pursues the permit. New codes adopted subsequent to the submittal of the building permit application, shall not be applied to the project, unless a written request is approved by the building official.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance
House Bill No. 1725, HD 1
February 27, 2026
Page 2

Amend the definition of "Authorization to proceed with construction" to: "...means any written approval by a county building official that allows work under its jurisdiction to begin prior to the issuance of final building permits."

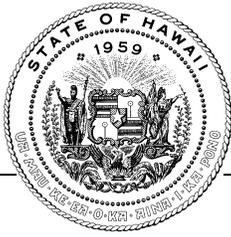
Amend the definition of "Material Change" to: "...means a change that alters the occupancy group, increases design occupant load beyond thresholds that change code requirements, increases building height or area beyond allowable limits, or changes the primary structural system. The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall retain the right to determine situations that qualify as a material change."

DPP is in favor of the changes to the Hawai'i State Building Code adoption cycle to six-years. This will benefit the design and construction community, as well as the DPP.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours.


FOR Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1725, HD 1
RELATING TO BUILDING CODES.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports HB 1725, HD 1**, which in Part I: Fixes the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments for the life of a building permit, subject to certain exceptions and rules. Part II: Specifies the applicability of the International Residential Code. Authorizes a county to adopt amendments to the Hawai'i state building code, under certain circumstances, and repeals the counties' existing authority to amend or adopt the buildings code without council approval. Changes the adoption of the Hawai'i state building code from a two-year cycle to a six-year cycle. Part III: Appropriates funds for the State Building Code Council (SBCC) for staffing and necessary consultant services.

Many of the core components of this measure were discussed within the Building Permit Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) of the Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Taskforce. Task force members expressed strong support for extending the building code adoption cycles from every two years to every six years, recognizing the challenges created by frequent updates for projects already in the design and permitting pipeline.

OPSD **supports** the transition to a six-year cycle as this timeline better aligns with real-world project timelines. The extended cycle also reflects the publication schedules and revision cycles of national and international code-writing entities. By reducing the frequency of mandatory updates, this measure promotes greater stability and allows designers, engineers, builders, and permitting agencies to plan and implement projects with increased certainty.

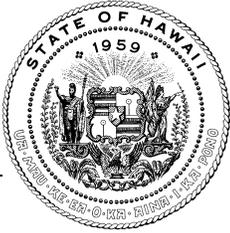
Furthermore, OPSD **supports** establishing point-in-time applicability of building codes for permitted projects. Fixing the applicable codes at the time a complete building permit application is submitted and diligently pursued provides clarity to both applicants and reviewers

and reduces mid-stream design revisions that can increase costs and delay housing and infrastructure delivery. We support the inclusion of an exemption for building code updates that address an imminent threat to life or safety that is directly implicated by the permitted scope of work, ensuring that critical public safety protections remain in place. The inclusion of clear definitions for terms such as “complete building permit application,” “diligently pursues,” and “material change” is welcomed by OPSD. These definitions remove ambiguity, reduce disputes, and improve the overall efficiency of the permitting process.

Finally, OPSD **supports** the appropriation for staff and consultant services for the SBCC. Adequate staffing and technical support are essential for the SBCC to fulfill its statutory and organizational responsibilities. This appropriation will help ensure that Hawai’i’s building code framework is both technically sound and administratively functional.

For these reasons, **OPSD supports HB 1725, HD 1**. By providing greater predictability in code applicability, extending adoption cycles to better reflect real-world development timelines, and strengthening the capacity of the State Building Code Council, this measure creates a more stable and efficient regulatory environment. HB 1725, HD 1 is needed to reduce uncertainty and delays in the permitting process, which are significant barriers to timely housing development in Hawai’i. OPSD respectfully asks the Committee to pass this measure.

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



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of **MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Friday, February 27, 2026
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 1725, HD1

RELATING TO BUILDING CODES.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) respectfully offers comments on HB 1725, HD1, a comprehensive bill that makes several amendments to Chapter 46, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). The bill establishes that once a county accepts a complete building permit application or issues an authorization to proceed with construction, the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments shall be fixed for the life of the permit. The bill changes the adoption of the Hawaii state building code from a two-year cycle to a six-year cycle. The bill authorizes counties, under certain conditions, to adopt amendments to the Hawai'i State building code that are either more or less stringent than the corresponding state-adopted provisions, while repealing their prior ability to amend or adopt the State building codes independently.

HSEO's comments are guided by [HRS§196-71\(b\)2](#) and [HRS§196-72\(d\)11](#) and are limited to potential impacts on the adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). By statute, HSEO is responsible for developing, evaluating, revising, and adopting energy-related codes and standards such as the IECC that advance the State's energy goals. Hawai'i has long recognized that a secure, clean, and affordable energy future requires thoughtful, forward-looking energy policy, and that energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective tools available to help families and

businesses manage their energy bills while reducing overall system costs. Building energy codes play a critical role in advancing energy affordability for residents, and modern energy codes help ensure that new construction is built to higher efficiency standards from the outset—locking in lower utility bills for homeowners, renters, and businesses for the entirety of the building's lifespan.

The buildings sector is key to Hawai'i's energy efficiency and decarbonization goals, being one of the major consumers of energy in the state, with the commercial and residential sectors accounting for ~62% of total electricity consumption.¹ Building energy codes are therefore one of the most impactful policy tools available to the state in pursuit of its clean energy and emissions targets ([HRS§196-10.5](#) and [HRS§225P-5](#)).

Part 1 (pages 2-6): Relating to Point-in-time Code Applicability

HSEO supports Part 1, which fixes in place the applicable building codes for the term of any project once a county issues authorization to proceed with construction. This simplifies and hastens the construction process, which in turn reduces initial costs. A clear statewide rule that fixes the applicable building codes at the outset will provide predictability, reduce rework, and speed-up delivery.

Part 2: Statewide Code Adoption Cycle (Pages 13-14)

HSEO strongly opposes the switch to a longer code cycle (**page 13, lines 14-21**). Accordingly, HSEO respectfully requests removing the highlighted amendments to HRS §107-24:

(c) ~~[The] Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, beginning on the effective date of the next statewide adoption of the codes under section 107-25(3), the council shall adopt, amend, or update codes and standards identified in section 107-25 on a staggered basis as established by the council [; provided that adoption of a code or standard shall be within two years of the official publication date of the code or standard, pursuant~~

¹ Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, *State of Hawaii Energy Data and Trends* (2022), https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/reports-studies/Energy%20Data%20Report%202022%20Final.pdf

~~to chapter 92, and exempt from the requirements of chapter 91.]~~
~~on a six-year cycle by adopting every other published edition of~~
~~each code. The council shall complete each statewide adoption~~
~~within twenty-four months after publication of the edition being~~
~~adopted.~~

Further HSEO requests removing reference to the six-year code adoption cycle on page 14, lines 6-7:

d) Between ~~six-year~~ adoptions, the council may adopt limited statewide amendments only to:

Continued efforts on energy efficiency standards in our building sector are paramount to meeting state-established goals and energy affordability. Energy efficiency is the least-cost path to achieving these state-established goals. Lengthening the code cycle amounts to imposing higher operating costs on consumers.

Part 2: Relating to County Amendments (pages 10-12, page 16)

HSEO notes that HB 1725, HD1, as written, repeals the county authority to amend and adopt the Hawai'i State Building Codes without council approval (page 16, lines 7-21); this authority appears to be added back into the statute through the addition of HRS §107-B, (page 10, lines 13-19; page 11; page 12, lines 1-17).

These proposed changes impose significant procedural burdens on counties seeking to adopt more stringent amendments, while establishing comparatively fewer requirements for counties that wish to adopt less stringent amendments. Further, **section b, states, "The adopted Energy Conservation Code may be enforced by the counties on a voluntary basis"** (page 12, lines 10-12).

As drafted, these provisions could effectively limit or create ambiguity around county enforcement authority for energy codes. In addition, with the removal of the automatic state adoption mechanism, it is unclear how updated state-adopted codes would be implemented or take effect at the county level.

For these reasons, HSEO respectfully requests the removal of these amendments in their entirety. As written, they risk undermining both the integrity of energy code requirements and the counties' ability to consistently enforce them.

Part 3 – Capacity Building for the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

HSEO strongly supports Part 3 that seeks to provide dedicated staffing and consultant support to the SBCC. The historical lack of financial support for the SBCC has caused lengthy delays in past code adoption and implementation activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

House Committee on Finance

February 27, 2026; 2:00 PM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of

House Bill 1725 HD1

Relating to Building Codes

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i is in **support** of HB 1725 HD1 which fixes the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments for the life of a building permit, subject to certain exceptions and rules; specifies the applicability of the International Residential Code; authorizes a county to adopt amendments to the Hawai'i state building code, under certain circumstances, and repeals the counties' existing authority to amend or adopt the buildings code without council approval; changes the adoption of the Hawai'i state building code from a two-year cycle to a six-year cycle; and appropriates funds for the State Building Code Council for staffing and necessary consultant services.

HB 1725, HD 1 provides a practical and long-overdue reform to Hawaii's building code system that will reduce construction costs and help address our housing crisis. Point-in-time code vesting provision in Part I ensures that builders and owners are not forced into costly redesigns and rework when a code changes mid-project. We are pleased to see this process codified and our Building Department will continue to work with applicants when they are challenged with unforeseen obstacles hindering their construction timeline.

Extending the adoption cycle from three years to six, reduces the constant churn that forces retraining and redesigns across the industry. Allowing triplexes and fourplexes to be built under the less burdensome International Residential Code removes a key cost barrier to small-scale infill housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 1725 HD1.



February 26, 2026

RE: International Code Council opposes the Section 5 code adoption delay in HB1725

The International Code Council (ICC) is a U.S. based organization with members in Hawai'i and across the world including architects, engineers, contractors, manufacturers, and government officials. Our mission is to develop model codes and standards that help the building safety community, local and state governments, and the construction industry provide safe, sustainable, resilient, energy efficient, accessible, and affordable buildings.

We urge you to oppose the language in Section 5 of HB1725 that would delay the state's code adoption cycle from 3 years to 6 years and could lead to local building codes that are 10 years out of date based on state and county adoption schedules.

We applaud the bill's section funding much needed staff for the State Building Code Council and urge the committee to focus on ensuring a well-functioning SBCC before enacting legislation that would put Hawai'i residents in housing that is out of step with the most modern, affordable, and resilient building practices.

Implementing a delayed code adoption cycle would lead to Hawai'i having codes that do not reflect the safest, most cost-effective methods and materials already being implemented, including recent updates to address issues such a

- Evolving requirements to protect from wind, windborne debris, rain, and flooding during natural disasters such as hurricanes, which are increasing in intensity.
- The fire risks inherent in the rising use of batteries/energy storage systems.
- Elevating structures and critical systems to avoid damage from flooding.
- The use of off-site construction options to help improve affordability and reduce waste.
- Advances in technology in building materials and practices that improve energy conservation, reduce waste, and lower construction costs.
- New methods of construction designed to provide design options to increase affordability without sacrificing life safety.

Even with an intervening opportunity for amendments, delaying code adoption also puts the state on a path to missing affordable housing options that have been a large focus of recent code update proposals, significantly reduced ability to meet the state's climate goals, higher flood and other insurance rates, and possibly being disqualified from federal grant funds, which often require a state to adopt one of the two most recent code editions to qualify for a full benefit.

The model code adoption process includes multiple opportunities for public comment and appeal. Review of change proposals – which include a statement on the potential cost impact – are ultimately subject to a vote by experts on the current best practices in the building industry and who have **no financial interest in the outcome.**

Failure to adopt resilient codes will result in avoidable damage to structures and significant financial and environmental costs that are associated with building new replacement infrastructure and repairing existing infrastructure. Even buildings built to strong energy codes that are highly energy efficient or even net zero energy will not realize climate benefits if they are damaged or destroyed because they were not constructed to withstand hazard risk.

National Institute of Building Sciences research estimates that building to modern building codes saves \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with up to \$8-to-\$1 return in wildfire mitigation savings. **Yet, no peer-reviewed research has found that adopting modern building codes has a meaningful impact on construction costs.**

Skipping code cycles places the state out of sync with national best practices and would lead to a State Building Code Council forced to “catch up” with two full sets of changes even while it risks losing members with expertise and experience in code development.

ICC is committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to facilitate the best path forward, which we believe includes funding staff for the State Building Code Council but avoiding legislating a guarantee Hawai'i residents will have to endure years of buildings that do not meet codes designed to promote best practices in building safety.

Thank you.

Bryan Imai
Government Relations Manager for Hawai'i
International Code Council
bimai@iccsafe.org



Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance (FIN)
Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

Subject: Strong support for HB1725 HD1 – Relating to Building Codes

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management alliance between the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, representing over 6,000 union carpenters and apprentices, and more than 250 signatory contractors statewide. Together, we represent a significant portion of Hawai'i's construction industry workforce and employers.

As an organization dedicated to protecting Hawai'i's working families, businesses, and taxpayers through fair practices in the construction industry, PRP strongly supports HB1725 HD1. This measure promotes predictability and cost certainty in construction, directly aids in addressing Hawai'i's housing crisis, and maintains safety standards without imposing unnecessary burdens.

Hawai'i's construction sector is critical to our economy and to delivering the housing our communities desperately need. However, frequent code changes and mid-project revisions create significant uncertainty, delays, and added expenses for homebuilders, workers, and ultimately homebuyers. Homebuilders need surety when finalizing plans and commencing projects. Having to adapt mid-stream to new codes – often due to permitting delays or updates during construction – imposes unnecessary costs through redesigns, material substitutions, additional engineering, and schedule disruptions. These costs are ultimately passed on, further straining affordability in our housing-short state.

HB1725 HD1 directly addresses these challenges in several ways. Part I establishes point-in-time applicability: once a county accepts a complete building permit application or issues an authorization to proceed, the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments are fixed for the life of the permit (including extensions, provided diligent pursuit), subject only to narrow exceptions for imminent



(Continued From Page 1)

life-safety threats that are narrowly tailored and documented. This prevents disruptive mid-project changes and allows builders to plan with confidence.

Part II shifts the state building code adoption cycle to six years (adopting every other published edition of the International Code Council suite), with limited mid-cycle amendments restricted to specific circumstances such as federal requirements, error corrections, or urgent life-safety/resilience needs. It also clarifies the applicability of the International Residential Code (IRC) to certain smaller multiplex buildings (e.g., triplexes and fourplexes under specified conditions) and allows counties to adopt more or less stringent amendments with required findings and impact statements, promoting thoughtful, locally tailored rules. Many other states facing similar home-building crises have moved toward longer periods of code stability to reduce costs and accelerate production. California, which traditionally operates on a triennial (three-year) cycle, recently enacted AB 130 (2025), imposing a six-year moratorium on changes to residential building standards (from October 2025 to June 2031, with limited exceptions for emergencies or specific safety measures). This effectively extends stability beyond the usual cycle – skipping the 2028 residential update – and supports housing efforts with no impact on safety.

By providing greater predictability through point-in-time code fixing and a six-year adoption cycle, HB1725 HD1 safeguards honest contractors and workers who play by the rules, reduces unnecessary financial burdens on projects, prevents cost overruns that hinder housing supply, and promotes trust in the system. This fosters fair competition, supports economic growth, and helps deliver much-needed affordable housing for our families and communities, all without compromising public safety.

PRP appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1725 HD1.

Andrew Pereira



Director of Public Affairs
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**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
2:00 pm**

February 27, 2026

Subject: HB 1725 - RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

My name is Craig Washofsky, Director of Strategic Projects for PHAD Home appliance – a local company supplying residential kitchen appliances to builders, contactors, developers and homeowners across the State of Hawaii.

I am pleased to offer the following testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1725, Relating to Building Codes. This measure takes important steps toward creating a more predictable, coordinated, and effective system for both regulators and the construction industry.

Under the current framework, building codes are updated at a pace that creates continuous strain on the system. As soon as a new code is adopted by the State Building Code Council (SBCC), agencies, designers, engineers, and builders must immediately begin analyzing the next round of codes. This cycle of constant transition places a heavy burden on county agencies responsible for enforcement and creates uncertainty for projects already in the permitting or construction phases.

HB 1725's revised adoption timeline would introduce a more rational and manageable structure. Moving to a system that effectively allows alternating or staggered review cycles would create longer periods of code stability, enabling a more thorough and thoughtful review of each set of code, thereby ensuring better training for building officials and industry professionals, and a more efficient permitting process.

It is important to note that this concept is already reflected in existing law. HRS §107-24(c) calls for codes to be adopted on a "staggered basis." HB 1725 simply makes the process workable in practice.

I would also like to clarify a common misunderstanding regarding the relationship between building code adoption and federal disaster funding. Specifically, building code adoption is not a requirement for FEMA disaster relief funding. Code adoption is only a scoring factor under FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, and FEMA guidance provides points if an applicant "has adopted one of the two latest editions of the model building code." HB 1725 would not place Hawaii at any disadvantage in pursuing BRIC grants.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Washofsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig Washofsky
Director – Strategic Projects

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:08:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony B. Borge	RMA Sales	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anthony Borge with RMA Sales. We are a locally-owned and managed kamaaina company since 1961. We manufacture and distribute louver jalousie windows, security and storm screens through a network of dealers and contractors throughout the state of Hawaii.

We **strongly support HB 1725 H.D 1** that will among other things extend the IRC/IBC Code adoption from the current 3 year cycle to 6 years similar to the state of California. This will allow all stakeholders time to thoroughly review the proposed Codes, make needed amendments to make it relevant to our climate/geographical location enabling a more efficient permitting process

Thank you.

Anthony Borge



House Committee on Housing
Rep. Luke A. Evslin, Chair
Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water & Land
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 27, 2026
2:00 pm
Room 308

Aloha Chairs Evslin and Hashem, Vice Chairs Miyake, and Members of the Committee:

Castle & Cooke Homes Hawai'i, Inc. respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of **HB1725_HD1**

Castle & Cooke is committed to building safe, high-quality communities for local families. One of the greatest challenges facing housing production in Hawai'i today is unpredictability in the permitting and building code process, which adds cost, delay, and risk to projects that are already difficult to deliver.

HB1725 fixes the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments at the time a complete building permit application is accepted or authorization to proceed is issued, and ensures those codes remain in effect for the life of the permit, subject to limited life-safety exceptions. Due to permitting backlogs, projects often wait extended periods for approval, during which codes may change. Mid-project code changes can require costly redesign, reengineering, or rework, delaying construction and increasing housing costs. Freezing the applicable code at the outset provides needed predictability while preserving counties' ability to address imminent life-safety concerns.

The bill also changes the statewide code adoption cycle from every three years to a six-year cycle. Frequent code updates create interpretation issues, unintended consequences, and a learning curve for designers, reviewers, inspectors, and builders. While safety remains paramount, each new code cycle can increase construction costs with diminishing returns. Extending the adoption cycle will provide greater stability, improve consistency in enforcement, and reduce unnecessary redesign and compliance costs.

In addition, HB1725 clarifies that certain triplexes and fourplexes may be reviewed under the International Residential Code rather than the International Building Code. Allowing these structures to proceed under residential review, while maintaining appropriate fire separation and life-safety requirements, will reduce costs and support the development of more attainable housing options.

HB1725 maintains strong safety standards while improving predictability, reducing regulatory churn, and addressing real drivers of cost in housing construction. For these reasons, Castle & Cooke Homes Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to pass HB1725_HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

February 26, 2026

State House of Representatives- Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Reference: **HB1725, H.D. 1, Relating to Building Codes**

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2026, Room 308 at 2:00 pm

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 ("UPC"), published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials ("IAPMO") who's primary purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the built environment.

We appreciate the intent of the HB1725, H.D. 1, however would like to offer the following comments in OPPOSITION to the measure.

Part I of the bill proposes to fix the applicable building codes from the point of permit issuance and for the life of the permit, which we find merit in, however, we do not support such continued applicability of the code in place at the time of issuance, for any extensions to the permit beyond it's initial term and request that the words, "and any extensions granted under the applicable building code's permit expiration rules", found on page 4, line(s) 4 thru 6 of the bill. Allowing such extensions may cause prolonged periods of delay and/or inactivity, where outdated codes and standards would make project less efficient, more costly, and most importantly less safe.

Part II of the bill proposes to authorize a county to adopt amendments to the Hawai`i state building code that are more "OR LESS" stringent, and repeal the counties' existing authority to amend or adopt the building codes without council approval.

Allowing counties' to adopt amendments to the state building codes that are "LESS" stringent defeats the whole purpose of having codes and standards and contradicts the stated purpose of the UPC, to provide, "**minimum requirements and standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.**"¹

Building codes and standards are updated regularly to incorporate new scientific findings and technological advancements ensure **public health, safety**, and welfare, and increase a community's **resilience to natural disasters**^{2, 3}.

- **Learning from disasters:** Every new code is a response to prior failures, with research from events like fires and hurricanes directly informing changes to prevent future tragedies.
- **Advancements in technology and materials:** The development of new, high-performing, and safer building materials and construction techniques requires codes to evolve to allow their use and establish minimum standards for quality.
- **Improved public health and safety:** Updates address new information regarding health hazards (e.g., exposure to asbestos or mold) and introduce requirements for improved indoor air quality, ventilation, and fire suppression systems to protect occupants.
- **Enhanced structural integrity:** Codes are continually refined to ensure buildings can better withstand specific local hazards, such as high winds, seismic activity, and snow loads, based on the latest data and engineering knowledge.
- **Energy efficiency and sustainability:** Modern codes incorporate requirements for better insulation, more efficient HVAC systems, and the integration of renewable energy sources (like solar panels) to reduce energy consumption, lower operating costs, and mitigate environmental impact.
- **Promoting accessibility:** Code updates often include revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and other accessibility guidelines to ensure buildings are inclusive and usable for everyone.

¹ See 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code, Page 1, Chapter 1 (Administration), Section 101.3 (Purpose)

² See <https://www.nist.gov/buildings-construction/understanding-building-codes#:~:text=Share,these%20recommendations%20into%20actionable%20codes.>

³ See *also* <https://amyduttonhome.com/posts/building-codes-why-are-they-important/#:~:text=Overall%2C%20building%20codes%20cover%20various,a%20consultation%20with%20Amy%20here!>

- **Legal and financial risk reduction:** Adhering to the latest, legally mandated codes helps property owners, builders, and designers avoid costly lawsuits, fines, project delays, and potential insurance coverage denials.
- **Maintaining property value and insurability:** Properties built to current standards are more durable, desirable, and likely to retain their value, often qualifying for lower insurance premiums because they pose less risk to insurers.

Regular updates, typically on a three-year cycle, are a crucial part of a consensus-driven process involving a wide range of experts, from engineers and architects to building officials and manufacturers, and licensed tradesmen that perform the work and install the system, ensuring codes remain relevant and effective⁴.

Part III of the bill proposed to appropriate monies from the general revenues to fund a full time position to serve the Hawai`i state building code council (SBCC).

Although, we see merit in this proposal, we note that similar funding is included in **Item No. 39.1 (AGS, \$326,882) of HB 1800 related to the state budget**, and believe that such appropriations is more appropriately discussed in that measure as opposed to being discussed here.

Prior to the initial emergency proclamation issued that paused the SBCC, the SBCC was functioning and performing its duties with the dedicated volunteer members and stakeholders that were involved. The codes and standards were reviewed and amended in a timely and efficient manner, with the concurrence of a broad section of construction industry representation.

The process being followed prior to the pause, and later suspension was a very comprehensive and collaborative approach to ensuring that codes and standards as published, were reviewed and amended to meet the unique needs and/or circumstances of various counties, with the concurrence of each county official and the assistance of industry experts. Such a pause and subsequent suspension of the SBCC, and the important work that it did and does has caused undue confusion in the construction industry.

For the reasons stated above, without amendments to Part I, and the deletion of Part(s) II and III entirely, we respectfully urge your Committee on Finance to HOLD and/or DEFER HB1725, H.D.1 indefinitely. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

⁴ See <https://www.nfpa.org/about-nfpa/why-nfpa-codes-and-standards-matter>



Hawai'i YIMBY
Honolulu, HI 96814
hawaiiyimby.org
info@hawaiiyimby.org

February 27, 2026

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT for HB 1725 HD1 - RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

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

On behalf of Hawai'i YIMBY, we are writing in **support of HB 1725 HD1**.

Hawai'i is facing a severe housing shortage and affordability crisis, and unnecessary delays in the building process only make the problem worse. Uncertainty at any stage of permitting or construction adds time, increases costs, and threatens the affordability of new homes. HB 1725 HD1 improves consistency and predictability by clarifying when building codes apply, reducing the risk of costly mid-project changes while maintaining strong health and safety standards. The bill also supports staffing and funding for the State Building Code Council, which will help ensure building codes are adopted and updated in a timely and thoughtful manner. Together, these reforms reduce risk, control costs, and help deliver much-needed housing more quickly for Hawai'i's communities.

Hawai'i YIMBY (*Yes In My Backyard*) is a volunteer-led grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to supporting bold and effective solutions for Hawai'i's devastating housing crisis. Our members are deeply concerned about Hawai'i's chronic and worsening housing shortage, which has caused home prices to rise much faster than incomes and pushes thousands of kama'āina out to the mainland or into homelessness every single year.

We ask your support for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i YIMBY
Honolulu, HI 96814
hawaiiyimby.org
info@hawaiiyimby.org

Sincerely,

Damien Waikoloa
Chapter Lead, Hawai'i YIMBY

Edgardo Díaz Vega
Chapter Lead, Hawai'i YIMBY

Huey Kwik
Chapter Lead, Hawai'i YIMBY





**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
2:00 pm**

February 27, 2026

Subject: HB 1725 - RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 1725, Relating to Building Codes. This measure takes important steps toward creating a more predictable, coordinated, and effective system for both regulators and the construction industry.

Under the current framework, building codes are updated on a pace that creates continuous strain on the system. As soon as a new code is adopted by the State Building Code Council (SBCC), agencies, designers, engineers, and builders must immediately begin analyzing the next round of codes. This cycle of constant transition places a heavy burden on county agencies responsible for enforcement, and creates uncertainty for projects already in the permitting or construction phases.

HB 1725's revised adoption timeline would introduce a more rational and manageable structure. Moving to a system that effectively allows alternating or staggered review cycles would create longer periods of code stability, enabling a more thorough and thoughtful review of each set of code, thereby ensuring better training for building officials and industry professionals, and a more efficient permitting process.

It is important to note that this concept is already reflected in existing law. HRS §107-24(c) calls for codes to be adopted on a "staggered basis." HB 1725 simply makes the process workable in practice.

BIA-Hawaii would also like to clarify a common misunderstanding regarding the relationship between building code adoption and federal disaster funding. Specifically, building code adoption is not a requirement for FEMA disaster relief funding. Code adoption is only a scoring factor under FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, and FEMA guidance provides points if an applicant "has adopted one of the two latest editions of the model building code." HB 1725 would not place Hawaii at any disadvantage in pursuing BRIC grants.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS ON HB 1725, HD1

Relating to Building Codes

Before the House Committee on Finance

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

February 26, 2026

Submitted by:

Legislative Advocacy Committee

American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council

Position: Support with Comments

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hawaii State Council
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

T (808) 628-7243
contact@aiahonolulu.org
aiahonolulu.org/AIAHawaiiStateCouncil

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

The American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council (AIA Hawai'i) supports the intent of HB 1725, HD1 to improve predictability, reduce unnecessary redesign, stabilize construction costs, and support housing delivery through clearer vesting rules and a more consistent statewide building code framework.

Point-in-Time Code Applicability

AIA Hawai'i strongly supports Part I of the bill, which fixes the applicable building code once a county accepts a complete building permit application or issues an authorization to proceed with construction. This addresses a persistent issue in Hawai'i where projects already under construction are forced to comply with newly adopted codes due to permitting delays outside the applicant's control. Establishing clear vesting at the outset will reduce rework, avoid unnecessary demolition, and help projects move forward more efficiently.

Statewide Code Adoption Cycle

AIA Hawai'i has historically supported statewide adoption timelines aligned with national ICC code publication, which also supports eligibility for and competitiveness under federal mitigation and resilience funding programs. In recognition of staffing constraints, training capacity, and the need for greater predictability in permitting and construction, AIA Hawai'i supports the bill's proposed transition to a six-year statewide adoption cycle, provided that mid-cycle amendments remain limited to clearly defined circumstances such as federal preemption, error correction, post-disaster resilience, or imminent life-safety concerns.

Missing-Middle Housing and IRC Applicability

AIA Hawai'i acknowledges the bill's intent to allow certain three- and four-unit residential buildings to utilize the International Residential Code. Expanding feasible pathways for smaller-scale housing can help increase housing supply and reduce the incentive for unpermitted construction.

Because these buildings often function operationally more like small multifamily structures than detached dwellings, predictable implementation will be important. AIA Hawai'i recommends that statewide guidance be provided regarding fire separation, egress, and inspection consistency so that equivalent life-safety outcomes are achieved across all counties and designers, reviewers, and contractors are applying consistent standards.

County Amendments to the State Building Code

The bill establishes a framework allowing counties to adopt amendments that may be more stringent or less stringent than the state building code under specified findings. AIA Hawai'i recognizes the need for counties to address unique local conditions. However, architects frequently practice across multiple counties, and significant variation in technical requirements can unintentionally increase design inefficiencies, delay permitting, complicate contractor bidding, and increase professional liability exposure. AIA Hawai'i therefore recommends that the State Building Code Council continue to play a strong coordinating and interpretive role by providing statewide guidance, education, and clarification so that local amendments remain understandable, predictable, and consistently administered.

Resilience and Federal Funding Eligibility

AIA Hawai'i supports the bill's allowance for limited mid-cycle amendments necessary to address disaster resilience and maintain eligibility for federal mitigation and recovery programs. Aligning Hawai'i's building codes with nationally recognized standards improves public safety and helps ensure the State remains competitive for federal resilience and disaster-recovery funding.

Proposed Technical Amendments

The following comments are offered as **specific, technical edits to the bill language**, reproduced verbatim for clarity and ease of consideration:

County Energy Conservation Amendments

The governing body of each county may adopt ~~[more stringent]~~ energy conservation requirements within the scope of the International Energy Conservation Code or ASHRAE Standard 90.1 (Energy Standard for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings) without the findings required by subsection (a)(3) if the county determines, and states in the adopting ordinance, that the amendment is cost-effective, based on a finding from a qualified third-party that utility bill savings over the first ten years will exceed the incremental installed cost of the amendment for typical buildings in the county, those amendments shall be as mandatory requires. Should county choose to adopt more stringent energy code requirements that accelerate the counties pathway to meeting greenhouse gas emission reduction or renewable energy goals, such as stretch or reach codes, the counties may enforce the amendments on a voluntary basis. ~~[The adopted Energy Conservation Code may be enforced by the counties on a voluntary basis.]~~

Section 107-24(c) — SBCC Review of Model Codes

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, beginning on the effective date of the next statewide adoption of the codes under section 107-25(3), the council shall adopt, amend, or update codes and standards identified in section 107.25 on a staggered basis as established by the council on a six-year cycle by adopting every other published edition of each code. The council ~~shall~~ may complete each statewide adoption within twenty-four months after publication of the edition being adopted.

Section 107-24(f) — Stakeholder Consultation

The council shall consult with general building contractor associations, ~~and~~ building trade associations, and licensed design professional associations to gather information and recommendations on construction practices and training relevant to building codes and standards.

Implementation Capacity

As a final comment, AIA Hawai'i supports the appropriation in Part III to fund staffing and consultant support for the State Building Code Council. The policy changes proposed in this bill cannot be effectively implemented without adequate administrative and technical capacity.

AIA Hawai'i supports HB 1725, HD1 with the comments noted above and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

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

Melanie Islam, AIA
President, AIA Hawai'i State Council
American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

180 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 • Tel 404.636.8400 • www.ashrae.org

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

Phone: (240) 761-5453
Email: bmcquade@baltimoreaircoil.com

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd
House Committees on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: House Bill 1725 "Relating to Building Codes."

Dear Chair Todd, and members of the House Committees on Finance:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. We are a professional and technical society of more than 54,000 members dedicated to energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resiliency, and sustainability in the built environment. Through our Society's research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today. As one of the premier subject matter experts on the built environment, and on behalf of our 260 members in the state of Hawai'i, we wish to convey our opposition to "Part II" of Hawai'i House Bill 1725, which would change from a three-year to a six-year cycle for building codes updates.

While well intentioned, as we certainly sympathize with the stated goal of bringing down housing costs in Hawai'i, we believe that this proposal will not have the desired effect. The idea underpinning this proposal, that Hawai'i's adoption of modern building codes and energy standards is responsible for high housing costs, and that ceasing to adopt up-to-date building codes and energy standards will bring down housing costs, is incorrect. The failure to update the International Energy Conservation Code and ASHRAE's Standard 90.1 *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, which are published on a three-year cycle that syncs up with HI's code updates would cause:

- Energy efficiency gains to be left on the table along with the opportunity for operating cost reductions.
- Business owners, homeowners, and tenants to pay in sum nearly \$3 million in higher utility bills every year.
- Thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions to go unmitigated.
- Greater difficulty meeting HI's 2030 and 2045 climate targets.
- Failure to create jobs associated with energy code adoption.
- No significant reduction in housing purchase costs

Second, requiring a cost/benefit analysis that is only created in consultation with developers, contractors, and builders regarding code and standard updates is a departure from the current balanced and fair process. Privileging the voices of one coalition in this complex process could throw future energy standard and building code updates into jeopardy. An amendment requiring additional consultation with energy efficiency advocates and building science and technology organizations such as ASHRAE would help the process remain balanced but would still be an administrative burden.

We also wish to inform you that rigorous studies on the financial and environmental impact of energy code and standard adoption are already produced by the United States Department of Energy and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. These reports are an unbiased, science-based analyses of the costs and benefits of updating Hawai‘i’s energy codes and standards. The two most relevant reports for your attention are:

- [Cost-Effectiveness of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019 for Hawai‘i](#): this study shows the costs and benefits of updating the state’s commercial building energy code. In summary, no increase in construction costs are expected.
- [Cost-Effectiveness of the 2021 IECC for Residential Buildings in Hawai‘i](#): this study shows the costs and benefits of updating the state’s residential building energy code. In summary, homeowners can expect to be cashflow positive inside the first year.

There are many causes of high housing costs, and it would be outside our area of professional expertise to speak authoritatively on them. However, we can point to many counter examples of states that adopt the newest energy standard on cycle and have substantially lower housing and construction costs than Hawai‘i, indicating that at most energy standards and codes are a marginal factor in Hawai‘i’s housing crisis. For example, Montana, Florida, and Oregon all update to the newest edition of ASHRAE’s 90.1 energy standard every three years. According to one large real-estate data company, the median price of a single-family home in Hawai‘i is \$975,000. This can be compared to \$528,000 in Montana, \$433,600 in Florida, and \$521,500 in Oregon¹. More generally, we know that there is a substantial return on investment when it comes to building codes: up to date model building codes save \$11 for every \$1 invested through disaster mitigation benefits.² Additionally, a study has shown that the lower utility bills delivered by using up-to-date energy codes reduce mortgage default rates by about a third. Finally, numerous case studies have shown that updating to modern and more stringent building safety codes and energy codes is not associated with an increase in housing and construction costs.³⁴⁵

¹ McMillin, David. 2024. “Median Home Prices in Every State.” Bankrate. April 8, 2025.

<https://www.bankrate.com/real-estate/median-home-price/#median-price-by-state>.

² “PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AND SAVING MONEY The Case for Adopting Building Codes.” FEMA, November 2020. Accessed January 23, 2025. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/fema_building-codessave_brochure.pdf.

³ National Institute of Standards and Technology. “Cost Analyses and Benefit Studies for Earthquake-Resistant Construction in Memphis, Tennessee.” NEHRP, December 2013. Accessed January 23, 2025.

[https://nehrrp.gov/pdf/NIST%20GCR%2014-917-](https://nehrrp.gov/pdf/NIST%20GCR%2014-917-26_CostAnalysesandBenefitStudiesforEarthquakeResistantConstructioninMemphisTennessee.pdf)

[26_CostAnalysesandBenefitStudiesforEarthquakeResistantConstructioninMemphisTennessee.pdf](https://nehrrp.gov/pdf/NIST%20GCR%2014-917-26_CostAnalysesandBenefitStudiesforEarthquakeResistantConstructioninMemphisTennessee.pdf).

⁴ Simmons, Kevin M., and Paul Kovacs. 2018. “Real Estate Market Response to Enhanced Building Codes in Moore, OK.” *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 27 (March): 85–93.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2017.09.040>.

⁵ Quarles, Stephen, Ph.D., and Kelly Pohl M.Sc. “Building a Wildfire-Resistant Home: Codes and Costs.” *Headwater Economics*, November 2018. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/building-costs-codesreport.pdf>.



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In conclusion, ASHRAE opposes Part II of HB 1725 and urges the swift dismissal of this provision in your committees. We are at your disposal to answer any questions, and to address any comments or concerns you might have. We also wish to make ourselves available to you at any time if you find yourself in need of subject matter expertise on building sciences and the built environment. We can be reached at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. On behalf of our 54,000 members worldwide and our 260 members in Hawai'i, thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

Feb. 27, 2026, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1725 HD1 — RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Aloha chair, vice chair and other committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1725 HD1](#), which would amend how the state and counties adopt and implement the International Building Code.

This bill would make several changes to Hawaii's convoluted, dysfunctional building code adoption process.

First, it would specify that once a county has issued an authorization to proceed with construction, a building permit issued under one set of codes is valid even if a code change takes place before the permitted project is complete.

Second, it would require the State Building Code Council to adopt building codes every six years.

Third, it would eliminate the process by which the counties adopt their own amended versions of the state code. Instead, the code adopted by the SBCC would be the statewide code, with counties retaining some authority to make amendments to the code only as applicable in their jurisdictions.

Fourth, it would allow three- and four-unit homes to be built under the International Residential Code instead of the International Building Code, subject to certain conditions.

Last, it would appropriate funding for staff to assist the SBCC in administering its duties.

State law currently requires that the State Building Code Council adopt every iteration of the International Building Code and related codes within two years of their being released; the counties then have an additional two years to make amendments to the state code and adopt those versions.

It is concerning, however, that the state and counties often struggle to meet these deadlines. For example, the State Building Code Council adopted the 2018 Interim Building Code¹ in April 2021, and Honolulu didn't fully adopt its own amended code based on that version until mid-2024.² In the meantime, the IBC released updated codes as scheduled in 2021 and 2024.

Because of this staggered adoption process, county building officials, builders and architects must constantly learn different building codes. For builders, this means navigating as many as four different codes, which takes time and training that increase administrative costs.

This process also stresses already-understaffed county planning and permitting departments, and research has shown that permitting delays can affect home prices.³

Furthermore, specifying that three- and four-unit homes can be built under the International Residential Code instead of the International Building Code under certain conditions would reduce construction costs for these dwellings,⁴ which could encourage more construction of them to help mitigate Hawaii's housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ ["State Building Code Adoption,"](#) State Building Code Council, April 20, 2021, p. 1.

² Ashley Mizuo, ["As stakeholders navigate building code updates, counties bear the burden,"](#) Hawai'i Public Radio, Aug. 27, 2024.

³ Paul Emrath, ["How Government Regulation Affects the Price of a New Home,"](#) National Association of Homebuilders, Economics and Housing Policy Group, 2011, p. 5; and Adam Millsap, Samuel Staley and Vittorio Nastasi, ["Assessing the Effects of Local Impact Fees and Land-use Regulations on Workforce Housing in Florida,"](#) James Madison Institute, Dec. 11, 2018, p. 19.

⁴ John Zeenah, ["Beyond Zoning: Hidden Code Barriers to Middle-Scale Housing,"](#) Center for Building in North America, September 2025.



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703.841.3200

Representative Chris Todd
Chair, House Finance Committee
Room: 306
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to HB 1725 “Relating to Building Codes”

Dear Chair Todd and Colleagues,

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) regarding HB 1725 “Relating to Building Codes” which changes the code adoption cycle in Hawaii to a six year adoption cycle, preventing regular adoption of modern building codes. NEMA strongly supports adoption of the latest national model building codes and urges the committee to oppose this legislation to keep Hawaii residents safe and help mitigate runaway energy bills. HB 1725 would set Hawaii back by preventing timely building code updates, and cost consumers and businesses alike. It would also cause code updates to be more significant when adopted, rather than the current incremental changes provided by a triennial cycle.

NEMA is the leading trade organization representing America’s electroindustry. Our more than 300 manufacturing companies include producers of reliable, connected, and secure products which are used throughout critical infrastructure sectors and other key markets, such as building infrastructure; building systems; lighting systems; industrial products and systems; utility products and systems; and transportation systems. NEMA members manufacture many of the products necessary to provide electricity to Hawaii consumers and businesses, equipment that powers electric vehicles, and products that make buildings and homes more energy efficient¹. In Hawaii, the electroindustry creates more than \$19.5 million in GDP contributions².

Importance of Timely Adoption of Model Codes

NEMA strongly supports consistent adoption of safety and energy codes on a triennial cycle. National model building codes provide the blueprint for constructing the places we live and work. They guide the minimum safety and performance standards which allow occupants to live and operate in a safe and optimally-performing environment. Model building codes also allow for the latest advancements in safety, efficiency, and resiliency in building. The codes are developed through an open stakeholder process regularly to reflect subject matter expert perspectives and incorporate advances in safety and technology in homes and buildings.

They also drive innovation and improve quality of life. The national model building codes, produced through an open and transparent stakeholder process and led by the International Code Council (ICC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), are revised every three years to account for advances in technological innovations, building practices, and best practices in fire & life safety. Therefore, timely adoption in accordance with the national model revision schedule is vitally important.

Energy Efficiency Reduces Costs, Increases Energy Security

Energy efficiency reduces Hawaiian energy bills. Modern energy codes include flexibility for builders and many paths for compliance, reducing the cost of utility bills and maintenance. The difference in costs of energy efficient construction are quickly outweighed by the reduced operational costs to homeowners.

Modern energy codes also provide benefits beyond energy savings. Homes built to updated codes also improve passive survivability. Passive survivability allows homeowners to stay safely and comfortably in their homes during prolonged power outages. Adopting updated energy codes could help residents during power outages from an extreme weather event.

Energy demand in the United States will significantly increase over the coming years. Energy efficiency is the lowest cost option for meeting this rising demand and ensuring energy security for the country, a top priority for the United States. Hawaii can help to achieve energy security by investing in long-term energy stability through promoting energy efficiency.

Continuing to improve energy efficiency on a triennial cycle for Hawaii homeowners greatly improves affordability, reduces their utility bills, and provides grid flexibility allowing the state to compete in critical areas such as data centers.

Conclusion

NEMA supports safe, efficient, and affordable homeownership. We strongly oppose this legislation as it will prevent timely updates to the state building codes, risking an increase in long-term operational costs for homeowners and businesses and preventing adoption of key safety updates to codes as they are released. This bill will also hurt Hawaii manufacturers as it prevents needed code updates to enable new technologies.

We thank you and your colleagues for your consideration of our concerns and request that you vote to oppose this legislation.

We are happy to speak further with the committee regarding any questions, concerns, or comments. We look forward to working with the legislature further on building code issues.

Best regards,
Christopher Bresee
Director, State Government Affairs
National Electrical Manufacturers Association

¹ Additional information about NEMA may be found at <https://www.nema.org/>.

² [Hawaii Electroindustry Economic Report](#)



holomua

COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

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President & Executive Director

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Page 1 of 2

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB 1725 HD1, Relating to Building Codes
Hearing Date and Time: February 27, 2026, at 2:00pm (Room 308)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1725 HD1. This measure, in part, addresses a critical bottleneck in our housing pipeline by extending the state building code adoption cycle from two years to six years and providing the State Building Code Council (SBCC) with the necessary funding.

Hawai'i remains in a severe housing crisis. Skyrocketing home prices leave many local families struggling to secure safe, attainable places to live. The median single-family home price in Hawai'i now exceeds \$1,000,000, while the median condominium price is nearly \$650,000, creating an unaffordable barrier for most residents. As a result, many local families are being forced to leave in search of more affordable options elsewhere. Between July 2024 and July 2025, an average of 11 people left Hawai'i *each day*.¹ More Native Hawaiians now live outside Hawai'i than within it, representing a staggering loss of our culture, traditions, and the very essence of what makes Hawai'i home.

In October 2025, a survey² of local workers' day-to-day financial experience indicated that the crisis continues to reach alarming levels. When nearly 3,200 local workers were asked whether they might need to move to a less expensive state, only 25 percent answered “no” definitively, down from 31 percent in 2024. Meanwhile, 75 percent said “yes” or were “unsure”, representing an increase from 69 percent in 2024. Additionally, more than half of respondents cited housing costs as the primary driver of their high cost of living. A notable driver in the increased cost of housing is the frequent and unpredictable code changes, which result in moving targets for builders, and delays and increased costs that are ultimately passed down to local residents and homebuyers.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Estimates, released January 2026; and calculations by the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Hawai'i State Data Center.

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/census/popestimate/2025/state-pop/2025_daily_est_state.pdf

² 2025 Hawai'i Affordability Survey - <https://holomuacollective.org/survey-25/#3>

A significant, yet fixable, driver of these housing costs is the frequent and unpredictable nature of code changes. Building codes are complex, highly technical documents. Under the current system, every time a new code is adopted, it takes at least one to two years for county permitting officials, plan reviewers, and design professionals to reach a common interpretation of the new requirements. This leads to a costly period of trial and error, with design professionals repeatedly resubmitting plans to understand what reviewers require for approval.

By the time a shared understanding is reached, the current three-year cycle is nearly over, and the process begins again. This creates a perpetual "moving target" for builders, causing delays and carrying costs that are ultimately passed on to homebuyers.

HB 1725 HD 1 proposes a more rational six-year adoption cycle. By aligning with the model code official publication dates, we provide the industry and regulators with a stable four- to five-year window during which the system functions smoothly, permits are processed quickly, and fewer errors occur. This stability will result in direct cost savings for home construction.

Furthermore, this extended cycle gives counties more time to develop thoughtful, local amendments. For instance, it allows time to adjust requirements such as insulated flooring, which may be necessary in other climates but would add unnecessary cost in Hawai'i, while still maintaining rigorous safety standards.

Additionally, this measure provides essential funding for SBCC staff. Despite being responsible for vital safety and structural standards, the SBCC is an entirely volunteer group and has operated without staff since its inception in 2007. This lack of resources has led to missed statutory deadlines and increased uncertainty. Funding the SBCC is a modest investment that will yield significant returns in efficiency and predictability for our construction industry.

We must reform the broken systems that make building in Hawai'i unnecessarily expensive. By stabilizing our building codes and supporting the SBCC, we can help ensure that more local families can afford to stay in Hawai'i.

We respectfully urge your committees to pass HB 1725 HD 1. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Prellberg
Policy and Communications Director



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
HAWAII CHAPTER

February 26, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

RE: **HB 1725 HD1- Relating to State Building Code**
Hearing date: February 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of NAIOP Hawaii in **SUPPORT** on HB 1725 HD1. NAIOP Hawaii is the local chapter of the nation's leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders, and other professionals.

HB 1725 HD1 establishes a clear statewide rule that fixes the applicable building code when a complete permit application is accepted or when authorization to proceed with construction is granted. Further, the measure changes the building codes cycle from a two year to a 6 year cycle.

A central and critically important feature of HB 1725 HD1 is its reform of Hawaii's building code adoption cycle from every two years to every six years. The current two-year cycle creates churn in the regulatory environment, requiring designers, builders, and county agencies to repeatedly adapt to new code editions before the previous codes have been fully implemented. This constant change contributes to confusion, inconsistent interpretation, longer permitting timelines, and higher construction costs.

Moving to a six-year adoption cycle will promote stability and predictability in the building code system. It will allow plan reviewers, inspectors, architects, and engineers to develop greater familiarity and expertise with each adopted code, resulting in more consistent enforcement and more efficient permit review. Limiting mid-cycle amendments to narrow circumstances such as life-safety issues, federal requirements, and error correction appropriately balances safety with regulatory certainty.

In addition, HB 1725 HD1 improves vesting rules by fixing the applicable building code when a complete permit application is accepted or when authorization to proceed with construction is issued. This protects projects from mid-stream code changes that can otherwise require costly redesigns and rework, further increasing housing costs and delaying completion.

Together, these reforms reduce regulatory volatility, improve permitting efficiency, and help control construction costs. At a time when Hawaii continues to face a severe housing shortage, stabilizing the building code system is an important step toward making housing development more feasible and predictable without compromising public safety. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of HB 1725 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken K. Hayashida". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and the last name "Hayashida" clearly legible.

Ken Hayashida, President
NAIOP Hawaii

February 27, 2026

TO: Chair Todd and Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: HB 1725 HD1, Relating to the Building Code

Dear Todd and Committee Members,

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generations by ending the workforce housing shortage.

We strongly support House Bill 1725 HD1. We need to make it easier for folks to follow the Building Code. Frequent code changes and historically long permitting processes only add confusion among builders and government officials, adding delays and increasing housing costs for residents. Moving the building code cycle from 3 years to 6 years means we can spend less time debating (already) good rules and spend more time actually building.

This is a Building Code reform measure that functions as an omnibus. It fixes the life of building permits, makes it easier for county governments to adopt and amend their own building codes and appropriates resources to the State Building Code Council to hire someone to staff the SBCC and coordinate among stakeholders. If we want more housing, the rules need to work for builders.

By fixing the applicable building codes and standards for the life of a building permit, HB1725 provides much-needed certainty to developers and builders. This approach reduces the risk of mid-project code changes, which can cause delays, increase costs, and deter investment in new housing.

The bill also clarifies the applicability of the International Residential Code and establishes a more deliberate six-year code adoption cycle. These changes balance the need for up-to-date safety standards with the practical realities of project planning and execution. Allowing counties to propose amendments to the state building code, subject to State Building Code Council oversight, ensures local flexibility while maintaining statewide consistency.

Let's make it easier (and safer) to build homes. **Please advance House Bill 1725 HD1.**

Thank you,



Lee Wang
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future
lee@hawaiisfuture.org

hawaiisfuture.org



Perry Arrasmith
Director of Policy
Housing Hawai'i's Future
perry@hawaiisfuture.org

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:44:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition opposes HB1725. Our primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai'i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands' climate resiliency.

Mahalo for your time.



Testimony of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties

HB1725 HD1 - Support

Relating to Building Codes

Committee on Finance

Friday, February 27, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC), we respectfully submit testimony in **support** of **HB 1725, HD1**.

HSAC includes membership from the Counties of Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i, and the City and County of Honolulu. Our purpose is to provide a coordinated county voice on matters of statewide concern, to support effective intergovernmental collaboration, and to advance policies that strengthen county governance in the best interests of our residents.

Counties are where policies are implemented, services are delivered, and residents directly experience government. We are responsible for permitting, inspections, infrastructure, housing implementation, and the day-to-day administration of the building codes that ensure public health and safety. Measures that affect building codes and permitting processes directly impact county operations, staffing, training, and service delivery. It is important that county perspectives are part of these discussions.

HB 1725, HD1 promotes predictability, improves coordination between state and county code adoption, and supports more efficient implementation without compromising health and safety standards.

For these reasons, HSAC respectfully urges the Committees to pass HB 1725, HD1.

Nahelani Parsons, Executive Director

Hawai'i State Association of Counties



February 26, 2026

The Hon. Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Comments on House Bill 1725, House Draft 1

Aloha Chair Todd,

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on legislation before your committee, HB 1725, HD 1.

Founded in 1926, IAPMO is a standards development organization and trade association that produces the most progressive and technically advanced plumbing, mechanical and water efficiency codes in the world. Our membership includes contractors, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, plumbing and mechanical inspectors, and building officials. IAPMO's primary motive for action is to protect the public's health by promoting efficient and effective plumbing and mechanical systems.

For decades, the State of Hawaii has relied on the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) as the foundation of its State Plumbing Code, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to nationally recognized, science-based safeguards for drinking water, sanitation, and building safety. It is considered the industry gold standard and is the only plumbing code accredited by the American National Standards Institute for ensuring openness and consensus in its development process.

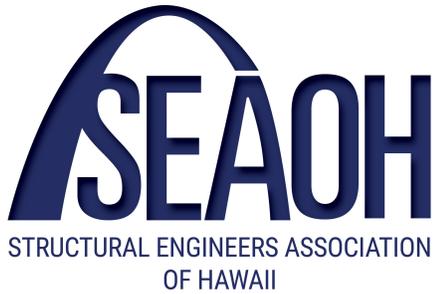
Given Hawaii's island geography, limited freshwater resources, vulnerability to natural hazards, and construction costs, maintaining a modern, resilient plumbing code is especially critical to protecting public health while supporting long-term water sustainability and housing affordability. The UPC is updated on a regular cycle to reflect the latest public-health research, engineering best practices, and technological advancements, a process widely recognized as essential to protecting health, safety, and welfare. Staying current with code adoption ensures that jurisdictions can incorporate innovations that improve water efficiency, conservation, and affordability, including modern approaches to plumbing system design that reflect today's lower-flow fixtures and appliances. A key example is the UPC's Water Demand Calculator, a statistically based, research-validated tool that allows plumbing systems to be rightsized, reducing unnecessary materials, lowering construction costs, conserving water and energy, and improving water quality by reducing stagnation -- outcomes that directly support housing affordability and public health without compromising safety. To further improve water quality and conservation, the UPC also includes innovative methods and materials, comprehensive installation guidelines, and advanced provisions for water efficiency and reuse.

IAPMO supports efficient and cohesive adoption of building codes for the public health and safety of Hawaiians. For any additional assistance or information, please contact me at david.yow@iapmo.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Yow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Yow
IAPMO Director of Government Relations



2026 Board of Directors/Officers:

President- Eric Tomishima
Vice President- Lyle Carden
Secretary- Grace Arends
Treasurer- Bryce Iwami
Past President- Grant Okunaga

February 26, 2026

Subject: House Bill HB 1725, HD1
Committee: House Committee on Housing
House Committee on Water and Land

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH) for which I am serving as the current President, I am writing this letter in response to House Bill 1725, HD1 (HB 1725).

In review of HB 1725, and with consensus among the SEAOH Building Code Committee, SEAOH Opposes portions of HB 1725 while Supporting other portions with comments as follows:

§107-A: SEAOH STRONGLY OPPOSES the proposed language to extend the use of the International Residential Code (IRC) to “Multiplex residential buildings” (i.e. triplexes and fourplexes). From a structural design standpoint, the intended use of the IRC is limited to “simple buildings” including one- and two-family dwellings or townhouses, located in regions with relatively low wind and seismic hazards. Extending the use of the IRC beyond its applicability would result in misuse of the prescriptive structural design and result in designs which are deficient causing potential risk to life safety and performance of the structure during wind and/or seismic events.

Refer to attached document for relevant background information and justification.

Part II, §107-B: SEAOH OPPOSES the proposed language to allow less stringent code provisions which could increase risk to health and life safety.

Per HRS §107-28 “The governing body of each county shall amend, adopt, and update the Hawaii state building codes as they apply within their respective jurisdiction, in accordance with section 46-1.5(13), without approval of the council.” Therefore it is not warranted to interject the language proposed in Part II, §107-B which

- a) has the potential to result in a less-stringent amendment with a significant increase in risk to health and life safety of structures (because “an acceptable level” is overly vague and not a definable level of risk in statute).
- b) allows the appointed SBCC to decide over the duly elected County authority and to declare what is “acceptable” for stringent or less stringent amendments.
- c) Housing affordability or delivery should not be defining factor for utilizing a less stringent amendment if the level of health and life safety is decreased below that applicable for other buildings.

Part I, Section 2. HRS §107-24: SEAOH SUPPORTS (with comments) to adopt building codes on a 6-year cycle. Adopting the International Building Code (IBC) on a 6-year cycle (on a staggered basis) is a reasonable approach as so long as any major life safety changes to the building code are addressed between each 6-year cycle. The major structural codes [i.e. American Society of Civil Engineers “Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures” (ASCE 7), American Institute of Steel Construction “Specification for Structural Steel Buildings” (AISC 360)] are published on a 6-year cycle and subsequently adopted by the following issuance of the IBC. The adoption of the IBC would be consistent with ASCE 7 and AISC, with the only exception being the American Concrete Institute (ACI) codes which are published on a staggered basis. Any concerns with the offset of the ACI publications could be addressed with State amendments should there be life safety concerns through coordination with SEAOH.

To enable the State Building Code Council to adopt codes in a more efficient single process rather than in two separate steps, we recommend Section 107-24 be further amended to remove the requirement for a subcommittee of county building officials, allowing the council as a whole to determine any necessary or desirable state amendments, by deleting subsection b:

*“**§107-24 Authority and duties of the council.** (a) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, the council shall establish the Hawaii state building codes.*

—(b) ~~The council shall appoint a subcommittee comprising the four council members representing county building officials, whose duty shall be to recommend any necessary or desirable state amendments to the codes and standards identified in section 107-25. Any recommended state amendments shall require the unanimous agreement of the subcommittee.~~”

(c) [~~The~~] Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, beginning on the effective date of the next statewide adoption of the codes under section 107-25(3), the council shall adopt, amend, or update codes and standards identified in section 107-25 on a staggered basis as established by the council on a six-year cycle by adopting every other published edition of each code . [; provided that] The adoption of [a] such code or standard shall be within [two years] 24 months after [of] the official publication date of the code or standard, pursuant to chapter 92, and exempt from the requirements of chapter 91. If the council does not adopt a code or standard identified in section 107-25 within the [two-year] twenty-four-month time period, that code or standard shall automatically become part of the Hawaii state building code until superseded by the adoption of an amended version of the code or standard by the council pursuant to this subsection.

Licensed design professional associations have been significantly involved in the code adoption and amendment process, offer a wealth of knowledge and information related to their disciplines, and should be considered as a stakeholders in the process. Therefore we request the following revision:

Section §107-24(f) — *Stakeholder Consultation The council shall consult with general building contractor associations, ~~and~~ building trade associations, and licensed design professional associations to gather information and recommendations on construction practices and training relevant to building codes and standards.*

Part I, Section 2. HRS §46: SEAOH SUPPORTS (with comments) the proposed language to “fix” the applicable building code at the time of permitting. SEAOH agrees with the intent to maintain the applicable building code in effect for the duration of a project. However, would clarify the language to maintain the applicable code to “at the time of building permit application” rather than upon “acceptance” or “issuance for construction”. Delays in processing permit applications or review of construction documents with subsequent issuance of building permits, may result in code changes within that duration which could trigger a requirement to change the applicable design code. Therefore, we suggest revising the language to include “at the time of building permit application” to avoid any confusion, misinterpretation resulting in costly design revisions.

§46- Building codes; point-in-time applicability; at the time of permit application acceptance; ~~authorization to proceed with construction.~~

(a) The applicable building codes shall remain in effect for the term of any project at the time the county:

(1) ~~Accepts a complete~~ At the time of building permit application; or

(2) ~~Issues an authorization to proceed with construction.~~

If there are any questions please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,



Eric Tomishima, PE
2026 SEAOH President

ATTACHMENT: Applicability of the International Residential Code Provisions in Hawaii

Applicability of the International Residential Code Provisions in Hawaii

The International Residential Code (IRC) is only intended for use in the design and construction of “detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above grade plane in height with a separate means of egress”.

As a prescriptive code, which requires no engineering input, the IRC was developed to cover the majority of small, regular residential buildings throughout the country. However, there were strict limitations on the hazards for which these provisions were developed. The majority of the U.S. has wind speeds less than 130 mph and moderate to low seismic hazard. These are the conditions for which the IRC was developed. Therefore, using the IRC design provisions where the wind and seismic hazards exceed the specified limits will result in construction that does not have adequate structural capacity to resist these hazards and greater risk of collapse.

Figures R301.2(8a-d) from the Hawaii State Residential Code adopted in 2010 show the applicability of the IRC prescriptive design in Hawaii based on wind speed and seismic hazard limitations. **The IRC is only applicable in the areas shaded in green in the figures below:**

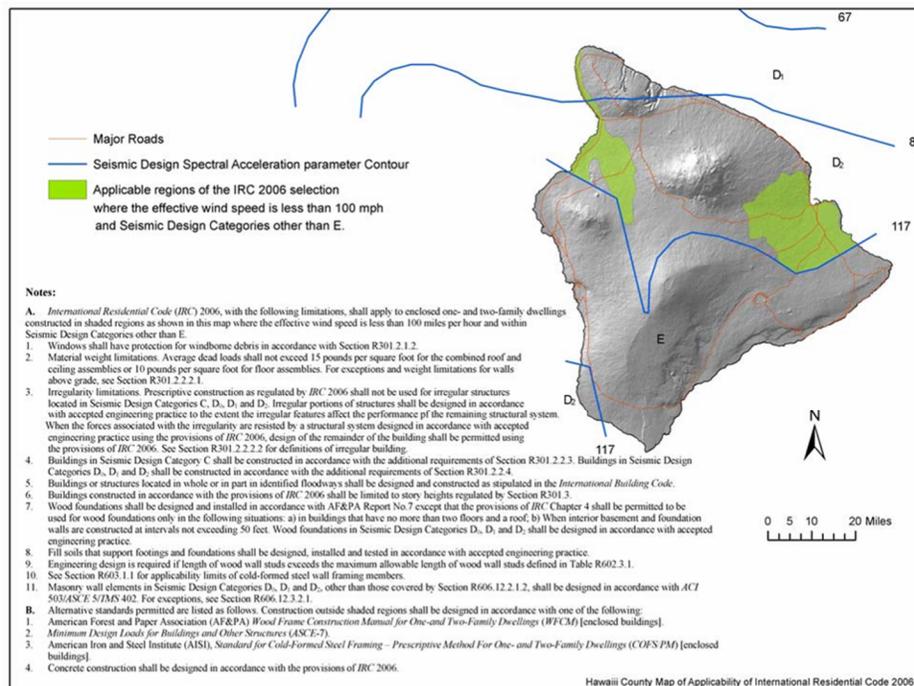


Figure R301.2 (8a) County of Hawaii Map showing where the IRC is applicable without an engineered structural design using the International Building Code or the referenced wind and seismic standards

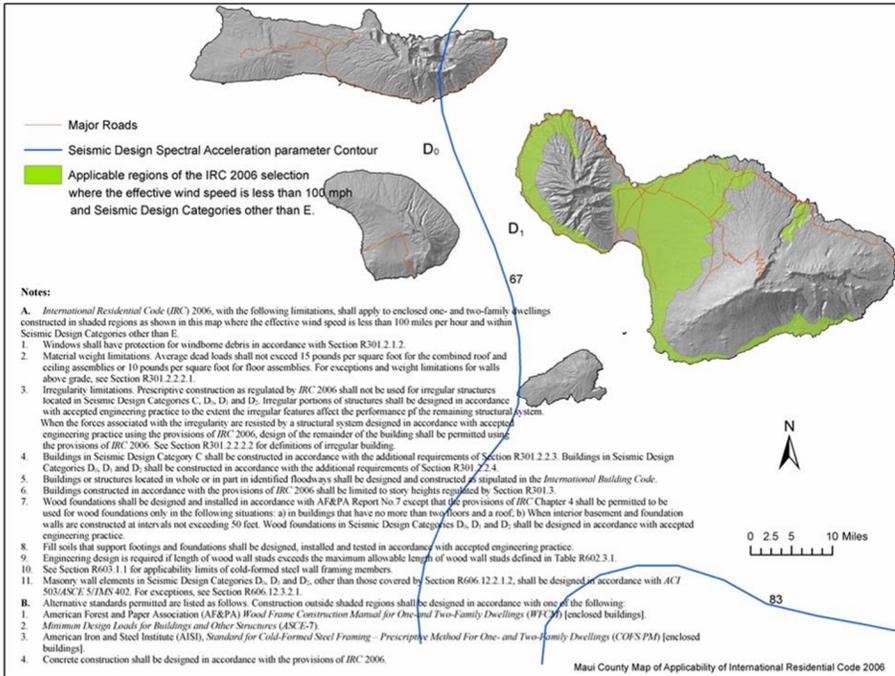


Figure R301.2 (8b) County of Maui Map showing where the IRC is applicable without an engineered structural design using the International Building Code or the referenced wind and seismic standards

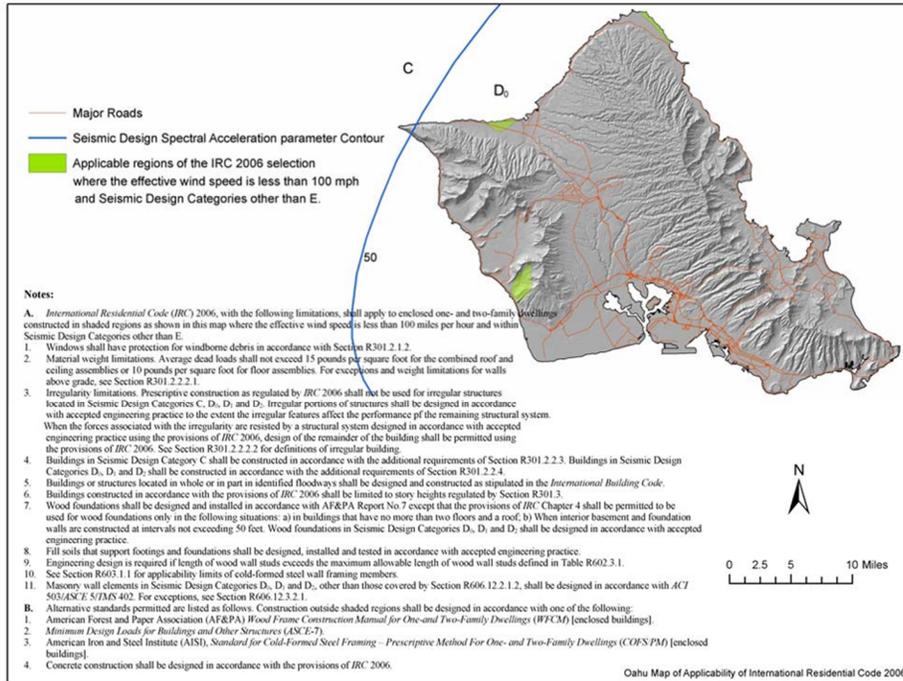


Figure R301.2 (8c) City and County of Honolulu Map showing where the IRC is applicable without an engineered structural design using the International Building Code or the referenced wind and seismic standards

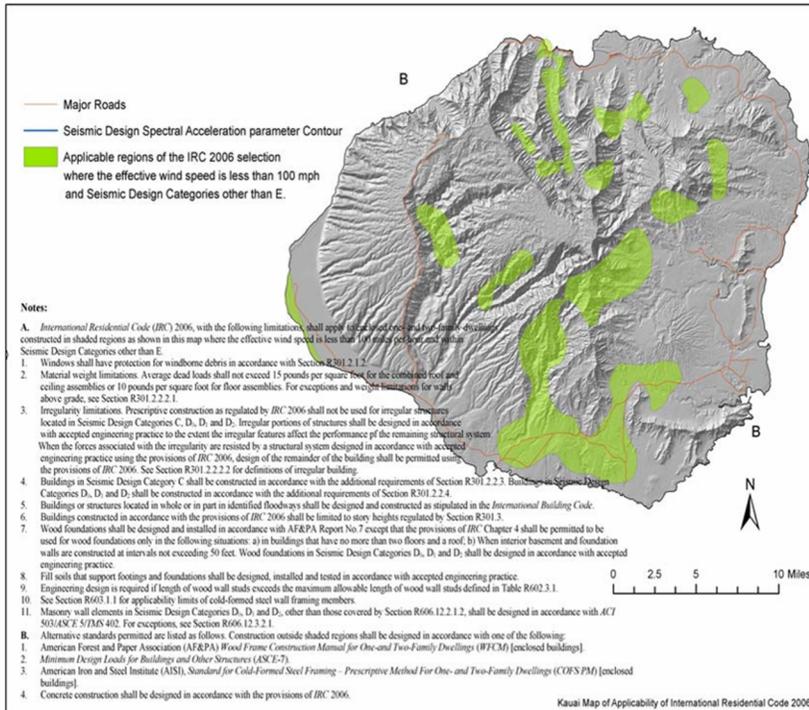


Figure R301.2 (8d) County of Kauai Map showing where the IRC is applicable without an engineered structural design using the International Building Code or the referenced wind and seismic standards

These limitations were not changed when the 2012 IRC was adopted by the SBCC in November, 2018, nor when the 2018 IRC was adopted by the SBCC in November 2020. Though these maps are no longer included in the State Residential Code, the wind and seismic restrictions still apply. In practice, the IRC is being used in many locations outside of these applicable areas. This would be allowable for all other aspects of the IRC, such as architectural, fire protection, mechanical, electrical, etc. However, this practice of applying the structural provisions of the IRC prescriptive method outside of the areas where they are applicable, as shown in the maps above, is increasing our community vulnerability to future high wind and seismic events, and creating unsafe conditions for the occupants of these homes.

One solution would be for the county building departments to require that when the IRC is used outside of the areas of applicability, the structural design be performed according to the Hawaii State Building Code based on the International Building Code.

In addition to the hazard limits discussed above, there are also further limitations on the seismic applicability of the IRC as spelled out in section R301.2.2.6 on Irregular Buildings:

“The seismic provisions of this code shall not be used for structures, or portions thereof, located in Seismic Design Categories C, D0, D1 and D2 and considered to be irregular in accordance with this section. A building or portion of a building shall be considered to be irregular where one or more of the conditions defined in Items 1 through 7 occur. Irregular structures, or irregular portions of structures, shall be designed in accordance with the State Building Code to the extent the irregular features affect the performance of the remaining structural system.”

Table R301.2(4) Seismic Design Category by Location-Site Class D

Location	Seismic Design Category
Kauai	B
Oahu, Molokai & Lanai	D ₀
Maui	D ₁
Hawaii: North and South Kohala , Hamakua, & North Hilo Districts	D ₂
All other Hawaii County Districts	E

As shown in Table R301.2(4), the prescriptive provisions of the IRC cannot be used for irregular structures in all counties in Hawaii except Kauai. Figures R301.2.2.6(1-7) from the 2018 Hawaii State Residential Code show the seven structural irregularities graphically. If any of these irregularities occurs in a building, then the IRC provisions cannot be used. Many of these irregularities are quite common in Hawaii residential construction. It is not clear whether the county building department plan reviewers are flagging these types of structures to require structural design per the State Building Code instead of the State Residential Code. This results in seismically deficient buildings being added to our already overwhelming inventory of seismically inadequate post-and-pier, single wall construction, pre-code construction, and unpermitted construction.

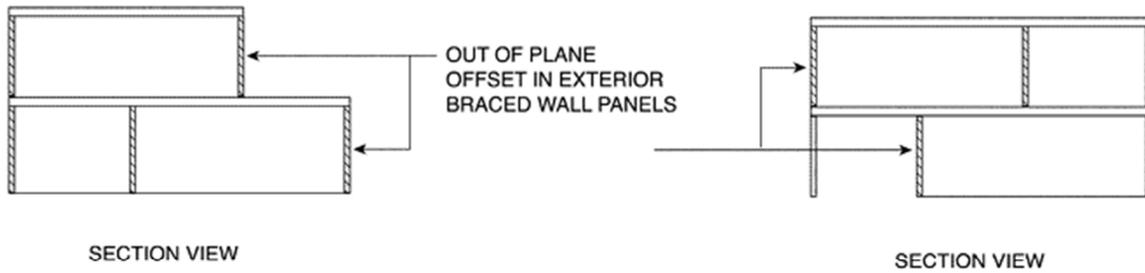


Figure R301.2.2.6(1) BRACED WALL PANELS OUT OF PLANE

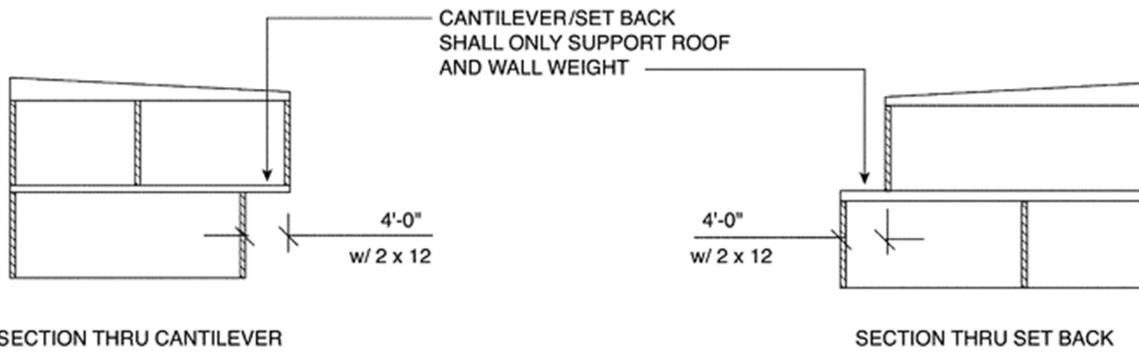


Figure R301.2.2.6(2) BRACED WALL PANELS SUPPORTED BY CANTILEVER OR SETBACK

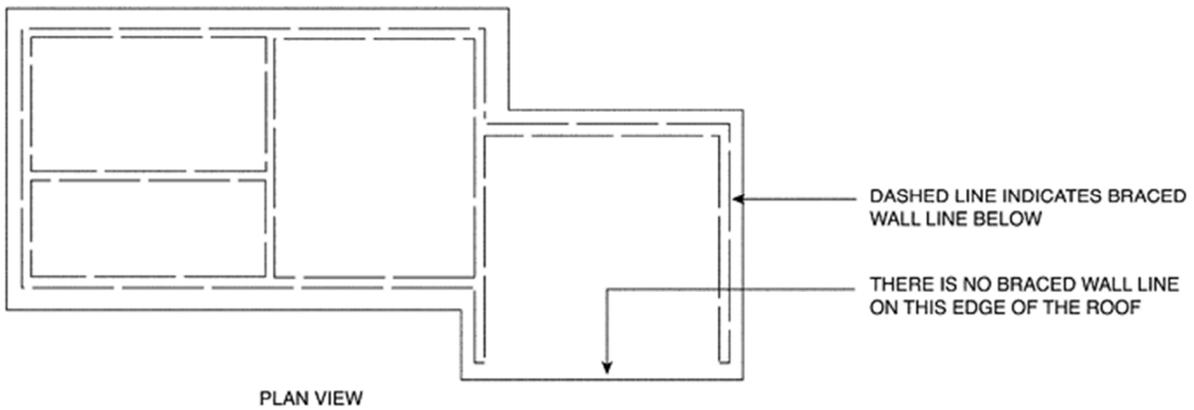


Figure R301.2.2.6(3) FLOOR OR ROOF NOT SUPPORTED ON ALL EDGES

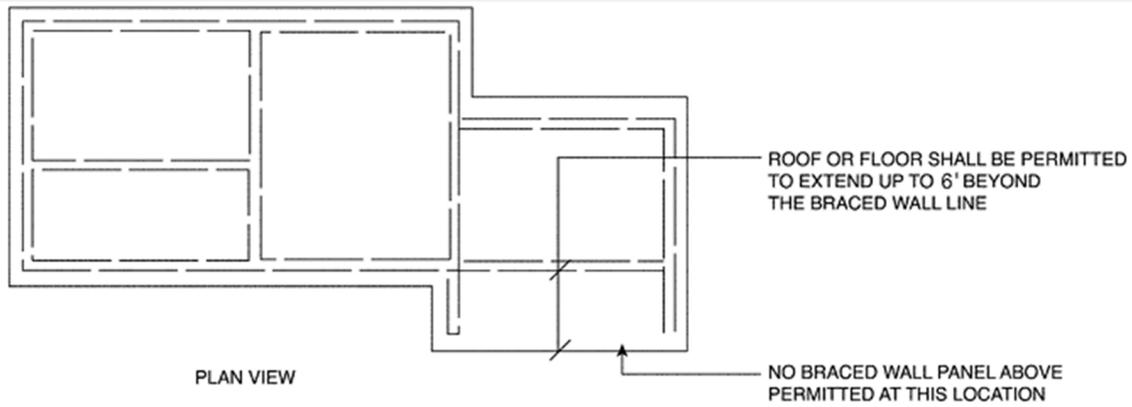


Figure R301.2.2.6(4) ROOF OR FLOOR EXTENSION BEYOND BRACED WALL LINE

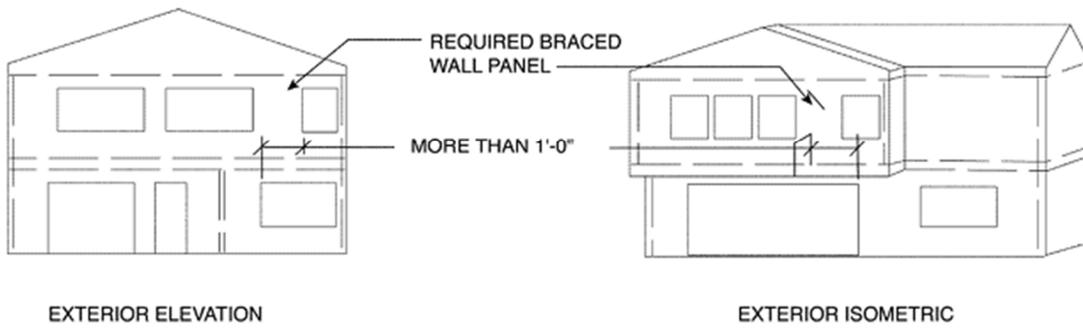


Figure R301.2.2.6(5) BRACED WALL PANEL EXTENSION OVER OPENING

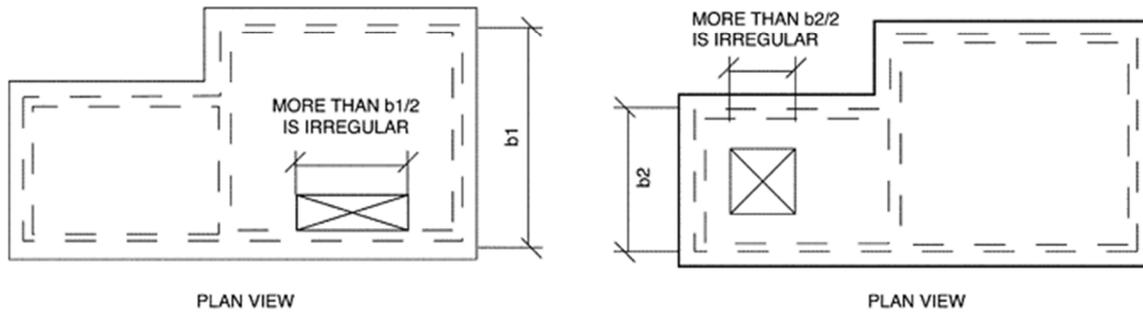
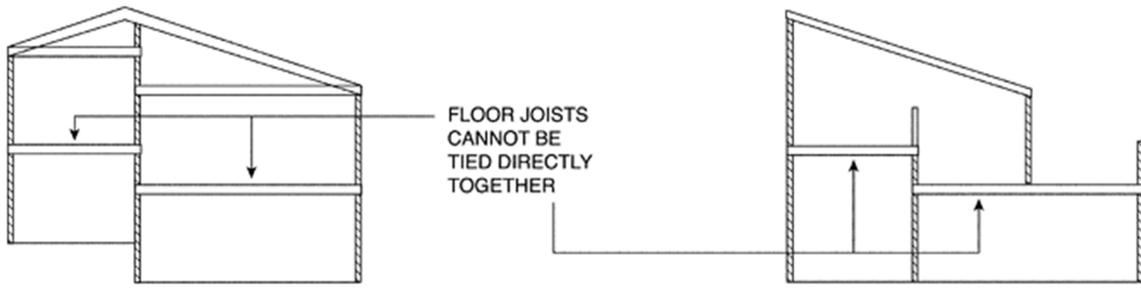


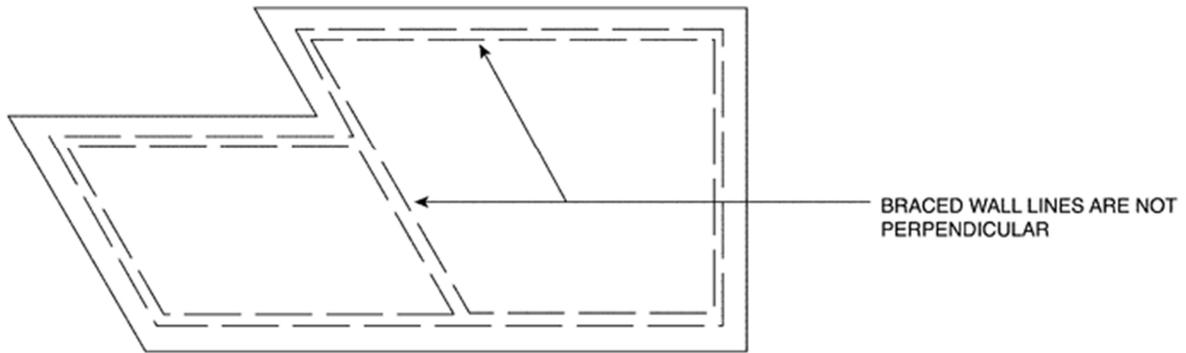
Figure R301.2.2.6(6) OPENING LIMITATIONS FOR FLOOR AND ROOF DIAPHRAGMS



SECTION VIEW

SECTION VIEW

Figure R301.2.2.6(7) PORTIONS OF FLOOR LEVEL OFFSET VERTICALLY



PLAN VIEW

Figure R301.2.2.6(8) BRACED WALL LINES NOT PERPENDICULAR"



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2025

2:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In **OPPOSITION** to **HB1725 HD1**: RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **OPPOSES HB1725 HD1**, which would burden residents, first responders, taxpayers, and our society at large with the significant, long-term costs of delayed or foregone building code updates, for the short-term benefit of building industry interests.

The Sierra Club does not oppose, and strongly supports, providing the State Building Code Council with staff support that can facilitate its work in reviewing and amending building code updates, as also reflected in SB3048 SD1. The Sierra Club also does not oppose “grandfathering” building permits under codes that were in effect at the time they were issued, subject to exceptions for health and safety.

However, we are very concerned regarding the proposal to move to a six-year code update cycle, which will mean that our state building codes will be nearly a decade old before they are adopted – preventing new and renovated buildings and their tenants from realizing the public health, safety, resilience, and cost-saving benefits provided by timely code updates. We therefore strongly urge the Committees to hold this measure in favor of SB3048 SD1, or to remove the amendments proposed in Section 5 of this measure.

Our building codes are regularly updated based on international standards, developed through years of study and “lessons learned” from natural disasters, avoidable harms, technological innovations, and emerging environmental concerns, among others. As our climate crisis worsens, timely code updates are even more essential, to protect the safety of residents, first responders, and neighborhoods from avoidable harm, and to mitigate the damage and destruction arising from extreme climate events like hurricanes, floods, and fires.

Code updates can also provide across-the-board savings in water and energy use, relieving the financial burden on residents from ever more expensive utility bills, while also enhancing our overall water and energy security and reducing our carbon footprint.

Notably, up-to-date codes can also be essential for our communities to access federal funds and benefits, such as flood insurance, and can significantly reduce the cost of private insurance premiums and the risk of insurers pulling out of the Hawai'i market.



By eliminating the State Building Code Council's authority to update the state building code in a timely manner, this measure would create significant opportunity costs and avoidable vulnerabilities for local residents that may persist for decades.

Rather than advancing a measure that so substantially compromises the public interest, the Sierra Club urges the Committee and the Legislature to instead explore and directly address the noted causes of building permit review delays, namely the chronic understaffing of and lack of timely training for county planning departments, including through assessments of staff salaries and conditions affecting worker retention. In addition, we respectfully recommend an assessment of other much more significant barriers to local residents' accessing housing, including water availability and sewer infrastructure; land, labor, energy, and material costs; land and real estate speculation including by real estate investment trusts and private equity firms; and interest rates that limit financing opportunities.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove Section 5 of this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:22:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSITION to HB 1725 HD1

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in OPPOSITION to HB 1725 HD1.**

HB 1725 HD1 would stick Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

NO to HB 1725 HD1.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:57:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our existing building standards do not adequately consider the impacts of Climate Change. The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods should be accounted for with up-to-date building codes to protect residents and first responders. Provisions in Section 5 need to be removed.

February 25, 2026

To: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Lindsay Stovall
Director, State and Regulatory Affairs
American Chemistry Council

Re: **HB 1725 HD 1 (Building Codes) – OPPOSITION TO SECTION 5**

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Plastics Division respectfully opposes section 5 of HB 1725 HD1 that would extend Hawaii's statewide building code adoption cycle from two years to six years. Lengthening the adoption cycle would delay the integration of critical safety, resilience, and energy-efficiency improvements, increasing long-term fiscal exposure for the state and counties while slowing progress toward Hawaii's statutory climate and clean energy goals.

National model building codes are revised on a three-year cycle to reflect lessons from fires, structural failures, natural disasters, and advancements in building science and cost-effective construction practices. Extending Hawaii's adoption timeline to six years would leave the state a full cycle behind nationally recognized standards, increasing vulnerability to hurricanes, coastal flooding and sea level rise, wildfire, seismic activity, and volcanic hazards — and driving higher public costs for emergency response, infrastructure repair, energy use, and long-term recovery.

For Hawaii, building code policy is both a safety and fiscal issue with lasting consequences for taxpayers. When buildings are not constructed to current resilience standards, the resulting losses are borne not only by property owners but also by state and county budgets through disaster response spending, infrastructure replacement, social services demand, business disruption, and prolonged recovery efforts. Maintaining a three-year adoption cycle ensures the timely integration of proven, cost-effective resilience and efficiency measures that help reduce future disaster-related expenditures and avoid locking in preventable public costs.

Energy Codes are a key part of this fiscal equation. Buildings account for a substantial share of Hawaii's energy use, and the state consistently has among the highest electricity costs in the nation. Successive national code updates have delivered cost-effective efficiency improvements that lower operating costs for households, businesses, and public facilities while improving grid reliability. A six-year adoption cycle delays the integration of proven efficiency measures, effectively locking in higher utility costs for decades and slowing progress toward Hawaii's statutory clean energy and climate goals. For state and county agencies operating schools, hospitals, and other public buildings, higher energy consumption translates directly into sustained budget pressures.

Code adoption also affects Hawaii's competitiveness for federal resilience funding. FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program explicitly considers the adoption and enforcement of current building codes as part of its evaluation and scoring criteria, and adopting more recent editions of model codes

improves a jurisdiction's competitiveness for BRIC funding¹. Modern code adoption improves scoring and strengthens eligibility, while delayed updates risk placing Hawaii at a disadvantage relative to other states competing for limited federal dollars. Because BRIC prioritizes hazard-resistant construction and code enforcement, maintaining alignment with current national standards supports access to federal mitigation funding and reduces reliance on state general funds following disasters.

Research from the National Institute of Building Sciences estimates that every \$1 invested in modern building codes yields approximately \$11 in mitigation benefits for earthquake, flood, and wind hazards, and up to \$8 in wildfire mitigation savings². At the same time, peer-reviewed research has not found that adoption of modern model codes meaningfully increases overall construction costs. For Hawaii, a three-year statewide building code adoption cycle represents a fiscally prudent strategy: reducing long-term disaster expenditures, lowering operating costs for residents and public agencies, supporting climate and energy mandates, and strengthening competitiveness for federal resilience funding.

For the above stated reasons, ACC respectfully urges you to **reject the changes contained in Section 5 of HB 1725 HD1, and instead adopt a three-year cycle**, which is consistent with national model codes and better aligns with current safety, resilience, and energy-efficiency practices.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at Lindsay_Stovall@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551 or via email at ryamasaki@808cch.com.

¹ [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Technical Evaluation Criteria](#)

² <https://www.nibs.org/reports/natural-hazard-mitigation-saves-2019-report>



TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII

February 27, 2026

Testimony in support of HB 1725 HD1, Relating to Building Codes

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

We write in support of HB 1725 HD1, Relating to Building Codes, which will improve the timeliness of code adoption and updates.

Title Guaranty of Hawai'i is the oldest and largest title company in the state. We have been owned and operated by a kama'āina family since 1896, and we are proud to employ over 250 residents across our branches statewide. As an organization that has worked for over a century to connect local families with housing, we see firsthand how regulatory uncertainty and inefficiency add time, cost, and complexity to housing projects, ultimately borne by residents.

HB 1725 HD1 takes a pragmatic step toward improving that system.

First, extending the building code renewal timeline provides much-needed stability and predictability. Frequent code update cycles can create confusion and inefficiencies for developers, lenders, design professionals, and counties. A long renewal window allows stakeholders to plan, train staff, and implement updates more thoughtfully, without compromising safety.

Second, appropriating funding for the State Building Code Council is critical to effective implementation. The Council's work is highly technical and directly affects housing delivery statewide. Dedicated resources will strengthen coordination, support timely reviews, and ensure consistent adoption across counties, allowing the revised timeline to function as intended.

Together, these provisions support a more efficient and predictable building code system while maintaining strong safety standards. By reducing unnecessary delays and strengthening the State Building Code Council's capacity to carry out its responsibilities, HB 1725 HD1 helps control development costs, support housing production, and promote a more stable housing market for local families.

Sincerely,

Mike B. Pietsch
President and Chief Operating Officer
Title Guaranty of Hawai'i





Statement of
**Meli James
Brittany Heyd
Cofounders
Mana Up**

HB 1725 HD1, Relating to Building Codes

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

As a small business owner, we write in support of HB 1725 HD1, Relating to Building Codes.

Mana Up is a statewide initiative that supports Hawai'i-based entrepreneurs with the resources and tools they need to grow locally and scale globally. The founders and small business owners we work with are deeply invested in Hawai'i. They create local jobs, reinvest in their communities, and contribute to a diversified and resilient local economy. For these entrepreneurs to stay and thrive in Hawai'i, however, they need stable, attainable housing, particularly in the early stages of building their businesses.

Under the current system, building code update cycles add unnecessary complexity and uncertainty to housing development. When codes are updated frequently, it often takes one to two years for permitting officials, plan reviewers, and design professionals to align on interpretation and implementation. These delays increase costs and slow housing production, further straining affordability for local residents and the small business workforce.

Extending the building code renewal timeline enables a more predictable, efficient process. With additional time, permitting officials, plan reviewers, and design professionals can align on interpretation and implementation, reducing revisions, delays, and unnecessary costs. Coupled with dedicated funding for the State Building Code Council, these provisions strengthen the Council's capacity to carry out its highly technical responsibilities, support consistent statewide adoption, and maintain safety standards, ultimately helping to control construction costs and deliver more attainable housing for local residents.

HB 1725 HD1 is a practical solution that helps make housing more affordable for our community, and Mana Up is happy to support it.

Sincerely,

Meli James
Brittany Heyd
Cofounders, Mana Up

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 3:12:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jubilee Johanna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jubilee Westergaard, and I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders. Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to HOLD HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jubilee Westergaard

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 3:27:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Lorenzo

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:43:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Irene, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:05:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is William Reese Liggett, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai'i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands' climate resiliency.

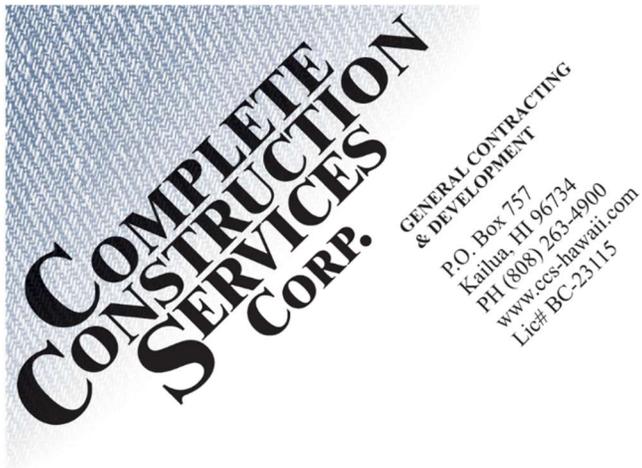
As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett



**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
2:00 PM**

February 27, 2026

Subject: HB 1725 - RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1725 Relating to Building Codes. I have been a licensed General Contractor since 1996 and I currently work on developing affordable housing under the City Bill 7 program. In addition I serve on the City and County of Honolulu Building Board of Appeals, as the Chair of BIA Hawaii's Codes Committee and as Vice President of the Board of Directors for Hawaii State Habitat for Humanity. Affordable housing isn't just my profession; it is my passion.

The building code adoption process as it exists today is broken from top to bottom. It is overseen by NGO's that are far more interested in maintaining their multi-million dollar business model of selling code books then policing the manufacturers pushing products via code changes. It is sold to well intentioned State and Local Governments via red herrings such as FEMA funding, inflated life safety concerns and eminent environmental collapse. It is poorly implemented because the actual practitioners of both building and code compliance have the goal posts constantly moving.

HB 1725 fulfills the original promise of HRS 107-24 by formally clarifying the original requirement that codes be adopted on a "staggered basis". It sends a powerful message to the NGO's that write the code that we will put our housing needs ahead of your profits. We will respect the needs and opinions of the plan checkers, building inspectors, design professionals and builders that are the end users of this process. We will create a process that benefits the many, not a process that benefits the few.

Sincerely,
Geena Thielen
President/RME

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:12:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Furst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Richard Furst, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Richard Furst

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:32:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Bo Breda, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:33:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Peter Wilson, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:01:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guy Kudo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Thank you.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:06:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Thank you.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:16:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Christy Shaver, and I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to HOLD HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Christy Shaver

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:01:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nancy Harter, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:25:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB1725 HD1 as it is currently written.

I am especially concerned about the language in Section 5 that would allow outdated building codes to stay in place. Hawai‘i is already dealing with rising temperatures, stronger storms, and more extreme weather. It does not make sense to lock us into building standards that are almost a decade old and do not reflect what we are facing today.

Building codes exist to protect people. When they are outdated or ignored, it can put lives at risk. Other places have seen preventable heat-related deaths in buildings that were not designed for extreme temperatures. We are also seeing more fires, flooding, and other disasters. Our building standards should be updated to account for these realities so residents are safer.

Outdated codes can also waste water and energy, increase costs for families and businesses, and make our drought and climate challenges worse. In the long run, cutting corners now will likely cost more later.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you hold HB1725 HD1 or remove the language in Section 5 that allows outdated building codes to remain in place.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
K. Kauano'e Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 26, 2026

TO: Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Nohelani U'u-Hodgins *Nohelani U'u-Hodgins*
Councilmember

DATE: Friday, February 27, 2026
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1725, HD1, RELATING TO BUILDING CODES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to 1) fixes the applicable building codes, standards, and county amendments for the life of a building permit, subject to certain exceptions and rules, 2) specifies the applicability of the International Residential Code, 3) authorizes a county to adopt amendments to the Hawai'i State Building Code, under certain circumstances, and repeals the counties' existing authority to amend or adopt the building code without council approval, 4) changes the adoption of the Hawai'i State Building Code from a two-year cycle to a six-year cycle and 5) appropriates funds for the State Building Code Council for staffing and consultant services.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Provides certainty and cost stability by fixing the applicable building code at the time a complete permit application is accepted or an authorization to proceed is issued. The bill prevents costly mid-project code changes that can delay construction and increase housing prices.
2. It supports the Building Code Council by providing funding to help them accomplish objectives laid forth in the measure.

February 26, 2026

Page 2

3. Improves consistency and accountability statewide. Moving to a six-year code adoption cycle reduces regulatory churn, and allows counties to adopt targeted amendments with required findings. This ensures transparency while respecting local conditions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 1725, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 25, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1725, HD 1, RELATING TO BUILDING CODES
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1725, HD 1, Relating to Building Codes. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I am pleased to support HB 1725, HD 1, which improves uniformity and predictability for consumers, the construction industry, and regulators by clarifying when building codes apply and reducing the risk of costly mid-project changes caused by shifting mandates, all while maintaining critical health and safety standards. The Hawai'i State Building Code is currently adopted on a two-year cycle, leading to frequent changes to building codes during active construction projects, which necessitate costly redesigns, rework, and delays, particularly when counties allow early-start work before a final permit is issued. Passage of HB 1725, HD 1 ensures predictability by shifting to a six-year building code adoption cycle, reduces unnecessary project rework, and supports efficient housing production across the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1725, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:dmc

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:43:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,
name

My name is Andrew Isoda, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai'i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands' climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:32:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb 1725. Clear standards help builders plan better. This bill moves housing forward, which is what we all want in order to keep our ohana here.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:34:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you are on a different island. This bill brings consistency and fairness. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:35:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Askman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1725. Having different building codes in every county just makes things harder and more expensive. One clear statewide code makes sense. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:37:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fawn Bertram	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write today to submit testimony in support of hb1725. The current system wastes time and resources. This bill simplifies the process. Please support this measure.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:38:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Brannigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1725 because the same building should not be treated differently in different counties. This bill creates fairness. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:44:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Briber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I strongly support HB1725. Having different building codes in every county just makes things harder and more expensive. One clear statewide code makes sense. For a year and a half (and counting), I have had a pending building permit application for construction of an 840 square-foot, one-bedroom ADU with carport on our property in the Maui Meadows neighborhood of South Kihei on Maui (where a 1970s-era ADU stood before we tore it down after buying the property due to a slew of permit violations as most such structures on Maui seem to have). The permitting process has cost me thousands of dollars in billable hours to pay our architect's time spent going back and forth endlessly with Maui County for what is an incredibly simple one-bedroom ohana (where another similar ohana once stood), and we even already paid to remediate and replace the cesspool with a separate septic system. We are doing everything we are supposed to be doing according to the rules, while a neighbor down the street just renovated and constructed without any permitting and they're done with their project. We're essentially being punished for following the rules. The most recent word from the County in our permit application is that we are going to have to pay out of our own pocket to construct a fire hydrant (estimates range from \$15,000-\$25,000), because according to the fire dept whose blessing we need since this is the third structure on our property, the standpipes in our neighborhood do not provide sufficient water pressure to successfully put out a fire according to the fire dept. (which is, in itself, terrifying and inexcusable). This seems like something our (very high non-owner-occupied) tax dollars at over \$30,000 per year should be paying for, but instead we will have to foot the bill for this piece of County infrastructure. What Maui County seems to be completely oblivious to is when you drastically increase the cost of constructing ADUs through unnecessary permitting costs and through putting the costs of County infrastructure that SHOULD be provided by the County (like water and fire fighting resources), landlords are forced to pass these costs along to tenants, and this is exactly what we will be forced to do. When we set out to build this ohana, our intent was to rent it at an affordable rate. The added costs of Maui County's burdensome permitting process (along with tariffs) are making this impossible - we will now be forced to rent this ohana at a much higher rate in order to ensure that we recoup our costs of building it during our lifetime. One wonders how Maui County can justify these unjustifiable permitting hurdles and added cost burdens on landowners who are trying to provide local housing in the face of a housing shortage. And for context, this is coming from a very liberal person who believes everyone deserves to be fed, have a roof over their head and access to healthcare. The state needs to tamp down these unnecessary and unjustifiable burdens on homebuilding and drastically streamline the permitting process if it really does prioritize fixing the housing shortage. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:46:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GREG BROSSIER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm sharing my testimony in support of House Bill 1725. This reform to the state building code is practical and overdue. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:48:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick vBundschuh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my testimony in support of HB1725. As someone who put in for a building permit for a 500sq ft guest house last year in April and is still waiting for final approval, I am fed up with the sloth and amateur actions of our local government. The current system is inefficient because different county codes slow everything down. A statewide approach makes sense. I hope you vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:48:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Keri Zacher, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Keri Zacher

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:50:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 1725 as a reasonable reform. The current system creates extra work without clear benefits. A statewide baseline makes sense for a small state - I hope you all vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:52:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francesca Carey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support House Bill 1725. The patchwork of county codes doesn't work anymore. It causes delays before construction even starts. A statewide baseline makes planning easier. Counties still have a role. This balance works. Please pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:54:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Carle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm sharing my testimony in support of House Bill 1725. This reform to the state building code is practical and overdue. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:59:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree with the 2/4/26 testimony from the International Code Council (ICC) that urges the Committee to **oppose** the language in Section 5 of HB1725 that would delay the state's code adoption cycle from 3 years to 6 years and could lead to building codes that are 10 years out of date based on state and county adoption schedules. While I support the bill's section funding much needed staff for the State Building Code Council, the code adoption delay would put the state and its residents in a deeply unfortunate position.

According to FEMA, one of the best ways to safeguard our communities against natural disasters is to adopt and follow up-to-date hazard-resistant building codes. Building codes are the minimum design and construction requirements to ensure safe and resilient structures.

These codes reduce casualties, costs and damage by creating stronger buildings designed to withstand disasters. They also help communities get back on their feet faster by minimizing indirect costs such as business interruptions and lost income.

I urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:59:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronda Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hb1725 is a smart fix to an inefficient system. Different county codes slow down design and construction. This bill creates consistency while keeping safety standards. That should end up reducing delays that impact housing costs.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:48:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. 1725 as a practical solution. Same state, same baseline rules. That just makes sense. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:48:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tawna Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current building code adoption system creates delays without adding value. Please pass HB 1725 today and modernize our building code to match with the current times.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:49:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Conner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

H.B.1725 is a smart fix to a broken system. I strongly support this bill to modernize our building codes. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:50:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1725 as a local resident who is tired of reading and hearing how our antiquated and inefficient systems and processes are the cause of delays, confusion and frustration. Please take a bold step and start with passing this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:53:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenner Danielson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because building in Hawaii is already complicated enough. Different county rules only add confusion. A statewide code makes expectations clear. This helps projects stay on track while still protecting public safety.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:54:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Desruisseaux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you cross a county line. That kind of inconsistency causes delays. This bill brings clarity and fairness. It's common sense. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Dillon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 1725. Same standards statewide make planning easier. This helps housing projects move forward. Please vote yes. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:56:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abhishek Duggal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony today in support of HB1725. This bill offers a simple fix with real impact. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:58:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1725. Having different building codes in every county just makes things harder and more expensive. One clear statewide code makes sense. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:59:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because building in Hawaii is already complicated enough. Different county rules only add confusion. A statewide code makes expectations clear. This helps projects stay on track while still protecting public safety.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:06:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Erickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you are on a different island. This bill brings consistency and fairness. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:07:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Emily Gambino, and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would saddle Hawai‘i residents with nearly decade-old building standards that do not respond to the rapidly changing realities of our climate crisis – jeopardizing human health and safety as well as our islands’ climate resiliency.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen, all aspects of our society must rapidly adapt. This is particularly true for our built environment. Outdated or nonexistent building codes that do not reflect our climate reality have already led to significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions. **The anticipated increase in extreme weather-related events such as fires and floods must also be accounted for via up-to-date building codes, to protect both residents and first responders** . Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also result in the unnecessary draining of our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and create long-term and ever-increasing costs for residents and businesses.

While the health and safety concerns are paramount, there are also concerns regarding the economic impacts of present and future federal funding and insurance requirements that may hinge on our compliance with up-to-date building codes.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to **HOLD** HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Emily Gambino

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:11:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Feike	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1725 because the same building should not be treated differently in different counties. This bill creates fairness. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:11:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Freeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support hb1725. Housing is already hard to build here. We shouldn't make it harder with inconsistent rules. Mahalo for listening.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:13:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill No. 1725 as a practical housing reform. It removes avoidable delays. Mahalo for all that you do for our communities. I hope you all vote in favor of this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:14:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Haban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you cross a county line. That kind of inconsistency causes delays. This bill brings clarity and fairness. It's common sense. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:17:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb 1725. Clear standards help builders plan better. This bill moves housing forward, which is what we all want in order to keep our ohana here.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:38:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB1725 HD1 as drafted.

My primary concerns are with the code-skipping provisions in Section 5 of this measure, which would delay building code updates for nearly a decade. Current building codes are becoming inadequate and threaten public safety in our era of accelerating climate change. Improvements are urgently needed.

We must adapt to rising temperatures and increasingly severe weather events by ensuring that our homes, workplaces and infrastructure can withstand these hazardous conditions. Hawaii's current building codes are not sufficiently resilient against natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, and hurricanes, which are projected to increase in both frequency and severity. Outdated building codes that fail to mitigate extreme temperatures have already caused significant numbers of heat-related indoor deaths in other jurisdictions, and could impact families in Hawai'i as our summers grow hotter.

Buildings that do not meet modern infrastructure standards may also waste our water and energy resources, exacerbate the impacts of droughts on our water security, drive up our collective carbon footprint, and incur increasing costs for residents and businesses. We could also face further economic consequences if our building codes fail to meet future federal funding and insurance requirements.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge you to HOLD HB1725 HD1, or to remove the provisions found in Section 5 of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:28:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Hastings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1725. Consistency reduces delays. This bill does just that and I think it moves us in the right direction.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:30:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Hocker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support House Bill 1725. The patchwork of county codes doesn't work anymore. It causes delays before construction even starts. A statewide baseline makes planning easier. Counties still have a role. This balance works. Please pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:31:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendell Hosea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hb1725 is a smart fix to an inefficient system. Different county codes slow down design and construction. This bill creates consistency while keeping safety standards. That should end up reducing delays that impact housing costs.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:33:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 1725 because it reduces confusion and wasted effort. Clear rules help housing move faster. Please vote yes.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:42:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JERRY JACOBSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

H.B. 1725 helps align building rules with real-world construction. This is a common sense bill that you should pass out of committee.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:43:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill No. 1725 as a practical housing reform. It removes avoidable delays. Mahalo for all that you do for our communities. I hope you all vote in favor of this bill. I have been in mortgage lending since 1975 here in Hawai'i.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:44:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Jennings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1725 because the same buildings should follow the same rules statewide. That's fair and practical. It saves time and money. Hawaii needs more housing, not more red tape. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:46:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:47:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John-Michael Kamakahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1725 because building codes shouldn't be a guessing game. This bill brings consistency where it's needed. It's a practical fix. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:48:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Kamauu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write today to submit testimony in support of hb1725. The current system wastes time and resources. We recently built a home and the time to get the required permits was excessively longer than the time to actually build the home.

This bill simplifies the process. Please support this measure.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:49:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer M Kamiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of H.B. 1725. Housing projects are already slow. Inconsistent rules make it worse. This bill helps reduce delays. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:50:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1725 because the same buildings should follow the same rules statewide. That's fair and practical. It saves time and money. Hawaii needs more housing, not more red tape. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:51:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antoine Khalil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of H.B. 1725. Housing projects are already slow. Inconsistent rules make it worse. This bill helps reduce delays. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:54:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Larsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I strongly support HB1725. Having different building codes in every county just makes things harder and more expensive. One clear statewide code makes sense. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:55:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support House Bill 1725. The patchwork of county codes doesn't work anymore. It causes delays before construction even starts. A statewide baseline makes planning easier. Counties still have a role. This balance works. Please pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:56:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb 1725 because the current system creates delays that don't add safety. It just adds paperwork. A single statewide code is smarter. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:57:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of H.B. 1725. Housing projects are already slow. Inconsistent rules make it worse. This bill helps reduce delays. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:59:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Lutzenhiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 1725 as a reasonable reform. The current system creates extra work without clear benefits. A statewide baseline makes sense for a small state - I hope you all vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:59:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Lynch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

H.B.1725 is a smart fix to a broken system. I strongly support this bill to modernize our building codes. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:00:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Manhan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 1725 because it reduces confusion and wasted effort. Clear rules help housing move faster. Please vote yes.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:01:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayna Marsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. 1725 as a practical solution. Same state, same baseline rules. That just makes sense. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:02:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willa Marten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support hb 1725. This bill cuts red tape without cutting safety. That's the right approach. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:04:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 1725. Same standards statewide make planning easier and quicker. This helps housing projects move forward more rapidly. Please vote yes. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:04:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because we need to change the way we adopt our building codes. I am hopeful that clear rules will mean fewer delays. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:05:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Melendez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

H.B.1725 is a smart fix to a broken system. I strongly support this bill to modernize our building codes. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:06:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Monoscalco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my testimony in support of HB1725. The current system is inefficient because different county codes slow everything down and provide no benefits. A statewide approach makes sense. I hope you vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:07:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Morse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb 1725. Clear standards help builders plan better. This bill moves housing forward, which is what we all want in order to keep our ohana here.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:10:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1725 because the same buildings should follow the same rules statewide. That's fair and practical. It saves time and money. Hawaii needs more housing, not more red tape. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:11:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Owen Myers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I am submitting testimony in support of HB1725. The lack of a uniform building code causes confusion and delays. This bill creates consistency across counties. It is a reasonable reform. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:22:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 1725 because clarity matters. Builders shouldn't relearn rules in every county. This bill makes expectations clear from the start. That helps projects stay on schedule.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:25:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support House Bill 1725. The patchwork of county codes doesn't work anymore. It causes delays before construction even starts. A statewide baseline makes planning easier. Counties still have a role. This balance works. Please pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:26:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Nosaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you cross a county line. That kind of inconsistency causes delays. This bill brings clarity and fairness. It's common sense. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:27:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernon Okada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:28:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Jessica O'Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support H.B. 1725 because building rules shouldn't change just because you are on a different island. This bill brings consistency and fairness. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:29:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Pelca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:30:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Power	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because building in Hawaii is already complicated enough. Different county rules only add confusion. A statewide code makes expectations clear. This helps projects stay on track while still protecting public safety.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:31:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Rabideau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:32:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Reid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1725. Consistency reduces delays. This bill does just that and I think it moves us in the right direction.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:34:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Rexer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1725. Consistency lowers risk and speeds up construction. This bill makes sense to me.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:34:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Roy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1725 because the same buildings should follow the same rules statewide. That's fair and practical. It saves time and money. Hawaii needs more housing, not more red tape. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:36:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reba Roy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm sharing my testimony in support of House Bill 1725. This reform to the state building code is practical and overdue. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:38:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen Sakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my testimony in support of HB1725. The current system is inefficient because different county codes slow everything down. A statewide approach makes sense. I hope you vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:39:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waria Salhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1725. Clear and consistent building rules help projects move faster. When builders know the rules upfront, there are fewer surprises. That saves time and money for everyone involved.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:41:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane D Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my testimony in support of House Bill No. 1725. Builders should not face different rules for the same building. This bill fixes that problem. Please vote yes.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:41:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my testimony in support of HB1725. The current system is inefficient because different county codes slow everything down. A statewide approach makes sense. I hope you vote to pass this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:42:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I am submitting testimony in support of HB1725. The lack of a uniform building code causes confusion and delays. This bill creates consistency across counties. It is a reasonable reform. Please pass it. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:43:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Sorensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of H.B. 1725. Housing projects are already slow. Inconsistent rules make it worse. This bill helps reduce delays. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:45:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Starrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:46:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1725 because the same building should not be treated differently in different counties. This bill creates fairness. I urge a yes vote.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:46:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Stoddard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I strongly support HB1725. Consistency matters for builders and communities. When rules are clear, projects move faster. This bill brings needed clarity. Please vote yes.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:48:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alessio Stossich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill No. 1725 as a practical housing reform. It removes avoidable delays. Mahalo for all that you do for our communities. I hope you all vote in favor of this bill.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:49:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Takeya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I strongly support HB1725. This bill modernizes how we build in Hawaii by updating the building code and getting rid of the county adoption process. I think this will cut down on confusion and delays. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:50:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Vetter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B.1725 as someone who sees how slow building already is. Different rules in each county only make it worse. This bill removes unnecessary friction. That helps housing get built sooner. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:51:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1725. Clear and consistent building rules help projects move faster. When builders know the rules upfront, there are fewer surprises. That saves time and money for everyone involved.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:52:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norma Watt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because we need to change the way we adopt our building codes. I am hopeful that clear rules will mean fewer delays. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:53:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Yasuhara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. No. 1725 because building in Hawaii is already complicated enough. Different county rules only add confusion. A statewide code makes expectations clear. This helps projects stay on track while still protecting public safety.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:54:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support House Bill 1725. Builders should be building, not reworking plans for different counties. This bill helps reduce wasted effort. Please pass it.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:00:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Hawkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hb1725 is a smart fix to an inefficient system. Different county codes slow down design and construction. This bill creates consistency while keeping safety standards. That should end up reducing delays that impact housing costs.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:02:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Morishige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I strongly support HB1725. Having different building codes in every county just makes things harder and more expensive. One clear statewide code makes sense. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1725-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 10:46:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.