



**HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
3:30 PM**

February 17, 2026

Subject: SB 2339 - RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the Committees:

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 SB 2339, Relating to the State Building Code Council. This bill makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council (SBCC), instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.

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

Our members are directly responsible for implementing the building codes adopted by the Hawaii State Building Code Council, and we see firsthand how these codes affect housing costs, construction timelines, and project feasibility. SB 2339 promotes fairness and balance by ensuring that the professionals who must actually apply and comply with building codes have an appropriate voice in the process. Building codes are technical standards that must work in the real world, on real job sites, under Hawaii's unique environmental, logistical, and economic conditions.

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

SB 2339 does not diminish the importance of safety, resilience, or sustainability. A well-rounded council leads to better-vetted decisions, fewer implementation problems, and smoother coordination with county building departments and the construction community.

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



Housing Hawai'i's Future
PO Box 3043
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

February 17, 2026

TO: Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee
Chair McKelvey and Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee
RE: SB 2339, Relating to the State Building Code Council

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair McKelvey, and Committee Members,

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

We support Senate Bill 2339. This bill would make both the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i (BIA) and the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i (GCA) permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council.

We need an SBCC that reflects Hawai'i's building ecosystem. Representation from the building industry on the State Building Code Council is presently structured so that the BIA and GCA alternate service as standing members. As a result, only one of these organizations is formally represented on the State Building Code Council at any given time, despite both groups playing distinct and complementary roles in the design, construction, and delivery of housing and other structures.

If we trust both organizations to serve on the State Building Code Council, we should be comfortable with their differing perspectives at any one period. Stable, consistent representation will help facilitate more informed, practical decision-making that takes into account the realities of construction and housing delivery. This change may also reduce administrative complexity and avoid potential gaps in industry expertise that could arise from alternating terms.

Let's advance SB2339.

Thank you,

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

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

hawaiisfuture.org

Commented [1]: This testimony is great. If you didn't already, you should check out the testimony for the companion. Both Kika and AIA HI threw a fit regarding this bill. Kika came out to personally testify. We'll still support the bill, but we may get some questions from them.

Commented [2]: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1712&year=2026



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, 5th Floor • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:30 p.m., Conference Room 225

RE: TESTIMONY OFFERING **AMENDMENTS** TO SB 2339

Honorable Chairs Angus L.K. McKelvey and Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, and Members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 2,700 men and women working in electrical construction, telecommunications, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

While we recognize the legislature's intent to address the staffing and expertise gaps within the State Building Code Council (SBCC), we must respectfully oppose the measure as currently drafted. Granting permanent seats by bifurcating the contractor associations, the bill creates an imbalance that may favor administrative perspectives over the technical, field-based reality of the construction industry.

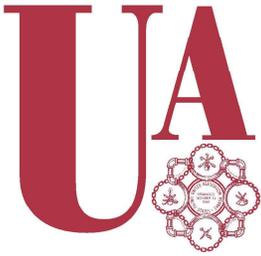
Electrical systems are among the most complex and safety-critical elements of the construction environment. To ensure the National Electrical Code (NEC) is adopted in a way that truly protects Hawaii's residents, the Council needs the direct input of those who install and maintain these systems every day. Licensed tradespeople are the primary line of defense against "short cuts" or improper system installations and designs that can be detrimental to public and worker health and safety.

Including a voice from the licensed trades will provide a more balanced discussion and ensure that deliberations are informed by those with practical, hands-on knowledge of the codes. As such, IBEW 1186 respectfully requests that the Committees consider the following amendments:

- Add one permanent, standing member representing the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186**.
- Add one permanent, standing member representing the **Plumbers and Fitters, Local 675**.

If these amendments to ensure this balanced discussion are not considered, we respectfully request that you **HOLD** this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



February 16, 2026

Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair; Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Committee on Government Operations

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair; Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Reference: **Senate Bill 2339, Relating to the State Building Code Council**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, Room 225 at 3:30 pm

Aloha Chair(s) Fukunaga/McKelvey, Vice Chair(s) Lee/Gabbard and Committee Members;

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 (“Local 675”) are one of three licensed crafts in Hawai`i construction industry. Its member apprentices and journeymen are guided by and licensed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code whose primary purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Local 675 OPPOSES Senate Bill 2339 as written as it would further favor the representation and perspective of one sector of the construction industry over another. Doing so would not serve the best interest of the public.

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

Currently, the state building code council is disproportionately represented by contractor associations and lack a balanced representation from those with practical knowledge and who actually perform the work. Senate Bill 2339 as written will only exacerbate the matter. Although Local 675 supports efforts to save costs and find efficiencies, we simply cannot support doing so at the expense of the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Having a voice from the licensed trades will provide for a more balanced discussion and representation from a broader perspective.

As such, Local 675 respectfully requests that your Joint Committee(s) *consider amendments to SB2339 that increase the proposed membership by an additional two members to include a representative from the **Plumbers and Fitters, Local 675** and a representative from the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186*** to ensure that such balanced discussions and deliberations occur. If you do not consider our proposed amendments, Local 675 respectfully requests that you HOLD this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB2339.





February 17, 2026

TO: HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, CHAIR, HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, VICE CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS. HONORABLE ANGUS MCKELVEY, CHAIR, HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, VICE CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF S.B. 2339, RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.** Makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council, instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.

HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 225

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees,

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

GCA Supports on S.B. 2339, which makes both the representative of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the representative of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii permanent standing members of the State Building Code Council, instead of members who alternate terms every 4 years.

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

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



February 16, 2026

TO: Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

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

Hawaii State Council
A Chapter of the
American Institute of Architects

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1.119 ver.

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

The American Institute of Architects, Hawaii Chapter (AIA Hawaii) would like to submit testimony opposing **SB 2339**, which proposes to modify the membership structure of the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to provide additional permanent representation from BIA and GCA representatives.

Under existing law, the SBCC has a broad membership that includes county building officials, the State Fire Council, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Hawaii State Energy Office, the Structural Engineers Association, the American Institute of Architects representative, and the Subcontractors Association, along with a seat shared in alternating terms between the Building Industry Association and General Contractors.

The SBCC was intentionally structured to maintain a careful balance of perspectives from professionals responsible for code development, interpretation, enforcement, and implementation. That balance is critical to ensuring that Hawaii's building codes continue to prioritize public health, safety, and welfare.

While contractors play an essential role in delivering safe and compliant buildings, architects and engineers bear the primary professional responsibility for interpreting and incorporating building code requirements into design documents. These design decisions directly affect life safety, structural integrity, fire protection, accessibility, and energy performance. Because architects and engineers carry professional liability associated with code compliance, their perspective is uniquely tied to the regulatory intent and long-term performance of the built environment.

Importantly, contractors are already well represented on the Council. Current membership includes an alternating seat between BIA and GCA and a subcontractor representative, both of whom bring valuable construction expertise and industry perspective. Expanding permanent seats for additional contractor interests risks upsetting the Council's balanced composition without demonstrating a clear need.

The SBCC's effectiveness depends on maintaining diverse viewpoints rather than concentrating representation from any single sector. The existing structure ensures robust input from the construction community while preserving the multidisciplinary framework necessary for sound building code governance.

For the reasons above, the AIA Hawaii State Council respectfully urges the Committee to defer SB 2339.

Respectfully submitted,
Reid Mizue, AIA, Legislative Advocacy Committee – AIA AIA Hawai'i

February 17, 2026

Senate Committee on Government Relations
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair



Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair



Thursday, February 17, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room #225 and via video conference

RE: SB 2339 Relating to the State Building Code Council

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee and members of the Committee,

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

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong support of SB 2339**, which strengthens the effectiveness and continuity of the State Building Code Council by making representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i (BIA Hawai'i) and the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i (GCA Hawai'i) permanent, standing members of the council.

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

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

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

For these reasons, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce **supports SB 2339** and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Best,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO

SB-2339

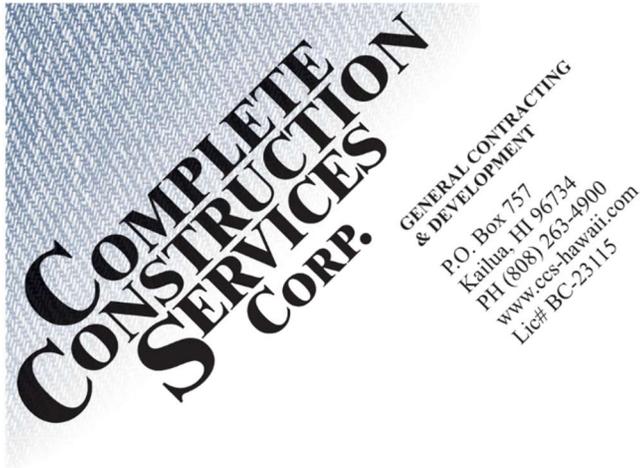
Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:14:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/17/2026 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2339. I see it as another attempt of developers and unions to infiltrate, and to work to gain more power within, decision making bodies so that they can weaken codes to their economic advantage. The public is unaware of this bill. It is a sneaky attempt that must be rejected. I ask you to vote against it..



**HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS and
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Conference Room 415
State Capitol
3:30 PM**

February 17, 2026

Subject: SB 2339 Relating to the State Building Code Council

Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2339 Relating to the State Building Code Council (SBCC). 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 current arrangement of two different entities sharing a seat on the Council does not make sense based on the constituency each of the two organizations (GCA and BIA) serve. Many of BIA's members work almost exclusively under the Residential code (IRC), while almost no GCA members do. Allowing both entities to serve at the same time enhances the cost of code information available to the broader SBCC. While costs are not the only relevant consideration of code adoption, they do play an important role. Especially as it relates to local amendments.

This also allows for important industry perspective to be included in the code adoption process while maintaining the majority of the votes in public sector hands. With the changes included in this bill, there would be 8 public sector board members to 4 private sector members. For these reasons I ask today for your support of SB 2339.

Sincerely,
Geena Thielen
President/RME