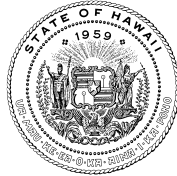


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

MARCH 30, 2026, 3:01 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 69 / S.R. 64

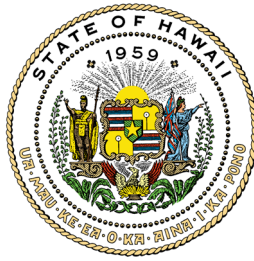
REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF
THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee, thank you for
the opportunity to submit testimony on S.C.R. 69 / S.R. 64.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this
resolution requesting a performance audit of the State Building Code Council.

As the resolution notes, the activities of the Council have been suspended since
September 2023. The performance audit described in the resolution may result in useful
guidance for improvement of the Council's operations and efficacy once Council is
reactivated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair

**S.C.R. NO. 69 / S.R. NO. 64, REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A
PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

Hearing: Monday, March 30, 2026, 3:01 p.m.

The Office of the Auditor offers comments on S.C.R. No. 69 and S.R. No. 64, which requests the Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council.

The resolutions specifically request the Office of the Auditor to conduct a performance audit that would, among other things, focus on the statutory purpose, duties, and authorities of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council (Council); the impact of the Council on regulatory consistency among the counties; and the Council's historical performance. The resolutions also request the Office of the Auditor to assess whether the counties should be the primary drivers and funders of the Council; potential alternative governance structures for building code adoption in Hawai'i; and the viability of a model in which counties manage, fund, and drive the code adoption process.

All performance audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor are in accordance with Government Auditing Standards which require us to be independent of the agencies, programs, and State political subdivisions we audit. To maintain that independence, we cannot be involved in program management-type decisions. For that reason, we have concerns about language found on page 3, lines 29-41, that requires our report to include an assessment of whether counties, as the direct administrators and enforcers of building codes, should be the primary drivers and funders of the councils; potential alternative governance structures for building code adoption in Hawai'i, including whether any modifications to, restructuring of, or repeal of the Council should be considered; and the viability of a model in which the counties manage, fund, and drive the code adoption process rather than the State.

We suggest that another agency – such as the Department of Accounting and General Services which oversees the Council or the Legislative Reference Bureau – may be better suited to perform the requested study and recommend that the resolutions be amended to reflect the more appropriately suited agency to perform the work.



Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)
Monday, March 30, 2026

Subject: Strong support for SCR69 – Requesting the State Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council.

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management partnership between the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters — representing more than 6,000 union carpenters and apprentices — and over 250 signatory contractors across the state. We proudly stand for a fair, thriving construction industry that supports Hawai'i's working families, legitimate businesses, and taxpayers. PRP strongly urges the committee to pass SCR69, which requests a comprehensive performance audit of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council.

As the voice of the state's largest construction union and hundreds of contractors who build Hawai'i's homes, infrastructure, and commercial projects, PRP Hawai'i has long witnessed the real-world impacts of the current building code framework. While the Council was originally created to promote public safety and statewide uniformity, the resolution correctly identifies that it has instead produced greater inconsistency, unpredictability, and unnecessary burdens across our counties. The three-year code-update cycle often outpaces full implementation, driving up costs, delaying permitting, and ultimately slowing housing production at a time when our state faces a severe shortage.

The Governor's 2023 emergency proclamation suspending certain Council functions to accelerate affordable housing was a clear recognition that the status quo had become a barrier to progress. With the Council now effectively inactive, SCR69 presents a timely and responsible opportunity to examine whether its statutory purpose, duties, and operations remain necessary or have become duplicative of county responsibilities. Importantly, an audit would allow for a fact-based approach to analyze whether there is room for the streamlining of processes related to the Hawai'i State Building Code Council. By reviewing the Council's historical performance, its effects on construction costs and timelines, alternative



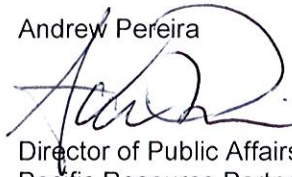
(Continued From Page 1)

governance models (including county-led approaches), and funding realities, the audit will deliver objective data that can inform smarter, more efficient regulatory structures without compromising safety.

PRP is confident that such an audit will help identify practical solutions to reduce regulatory friction, support faster and more affordable housing delivery, and strengthen the construction industry that employs thousands of local families. We urge the Legislature to adopt SCR69 and move forward with this critical review.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Andrew Pereira



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



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March 27, 2026

Testimony to the Senate
Committee on Public
Safety and Military
Affairs, Monday, March
30, 3:01pm, Conference
Room 016, Hawaii State
Capitol

IN SUPPORT OF S.C.R. 69, S.R 64 Requesting a performance audit of the Hawaii State Building Codes Council

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Borge, with RMA Sales, and a former board member/Chair of the State Small Business Regulatory Review Board. We are a locally-owned and managed kama'aina company since 1961. We manufacture, distribute louver jalousie windows, security/storm screens, ballistic resistant glazing systems through a network of dealers, and contractors throughout the state of Hawaii.

We **support S.C.R. 69, S.R 64** that which will examine:

- The fulfillment of the Councils statutory purpose
- The efficiency and practicality of the three-year code adoption cycle
- The impact of code adoption delays on construction cost, permitting timelines and the supply of housing
- The impact of the Council on regulatory consistency among the counties
- The current makeup of the Council

We believe the performance audit will provide the Legislature with the information needed to determine whether the current building code governance structure is meeting Hawaii's needs or whether changes are necessary to improve consistency, reduce delays, and support the statewide housing goals.

Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted by,


Anthony Borge



House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, March 30, 2026
3:01 PM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Castle & Cooke Hawai'i respectfully submits testimony in **support of SCR 69, Requesting the State Auditor to Conduct a Performance Audit of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council.**

Castle & Cooke is committed to developing safe, high-quality communities that provide much needed housing for local families. One of the most significant challenges facing housing production in Hawai'i is unpredictability in the building code and permitting environment, which can introduce delays, redesign, and increased costs. A thorough and objective evaluation of the Hawai'i State Building Code Council is an appropriate and timely step toward identifying opportunities to improve consistency, efficiency, and transparency in the code adoption process.

The current three-year code adoption cycle, combined with differing county implementation timelines and interpretations, has created uncertainty for projects already navigating complex permitting processes. When codes change mid-stream or when adoption varies by jurisdiction, projects may require redesign, additional engineering, or re review. These changes increase costs and can delay the delivery of housing that Hawai'i residents urgently need. A performance audit would help determine whether the current structure is achieving its intended goal of statewide consistency or whether adjustments are warranted.

SCR 69 appropriately asks the State Auditor to evaluate the Council's effectiveness, its impact on regulatory consistency, and how statewide code adoption affects construction costs, permitting timelines, and housing production. It also directs review of alternative governance structures, including whether counties should play a larger role in driving code adoption and implementation. These are important questions given the State's ongoing housing shortage and the need to streamline regulatory processes where appropriate.

An independent audit will provide policymakers and stakeholders with data driven insight into whether the Council is improving safety and uniformity or inadvertently contributing to delay and unpredictability. This information will help guide thoughtful policy decisions that maintain strong safety standards while improving the feasibility of housing development across the State.

For these reasons, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to adopt SCR 69.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

March 30, 2026, 3:01 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR69/SR64 — REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and other Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [SCR69/SR64](#), which requests the Hawaii State Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the State Building Code Council, making special mention of the housing shortage and the ways in which the Building Code Council has become a barrier to housing growth.

This resolution recognizes the fact that implementation of the building code in Hawaii has become an unwieldy and inefficient process, leading to a patchwork of county-level rules that contribute to construction delays and higher housing costs.

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 being released; the counties then have an additional two years to make amendments to the state code and adopt those versions.

However, 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

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

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 county codes, which takes time and training that increases administrative costs.

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

Assuming that this audit results in meaningful reform of the state building code process, we believe that this resolution will lead to housing growth in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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.

LATE



**HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
3:01 PM**

March 30, 2026

Subject: SCR 69 - Requesting the State Auditor to Conduct a Performance Audit of the State Building Code Council

Chair Fukunaga, 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 supports SCR69, which requests a performance audit of the State Building Code Council (SBCC).

The SBCC was originally created in 2007 to bring consistency, coordination, and expertise to the state building code system—something that was previously fragmented across counties. However, in recent years, stakeholders have experienced significant challenges related to the SBCC's operations. Delays in code adoption, lack of consistent guidance, and uncertainty in implementation have created confusion for both industry professionals and permitting agencies. These issues have led to increased project costs, delays in housing production, and additional administrative burdens—factors that have contributed to the housing shortage.

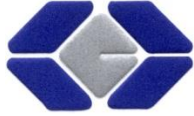
Notably, the SBCC has effectively been non-operational for an extended period following the Governor's emergency proclamation in 2023. This suspension has highlighted both the intended value of the SBCC and the practical consequences when it is not operational, underscoring the importance of evaluating whether its current structure and processes are effectively meeting the State's needs.

A performance audit would provide an objective and data-driven assessment of the SBCC, including:

- Its effectiveness in meeting statutory deadlines for code adoption;
- Its coordination with state and county agencies responsible for enforcement;
- Its ability to provide clear, timely guidance to stakeholders; and
- Whether its current composition and governance structure best serve the needs of Hawai'i.

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

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



March 30, 2026

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Public Safety
Conference Room 225

Subject: **Testimony in Support of SCR 69 – Requesting the State Auditor to Conduct a Performance Audit of the State Building Code Council**
Hearing: Monday, March 30, 2026 at 3:01pm

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee,

Gentry Homes supports SCR 69, which requests a performance audit of the State Building Code Council (SBCC).

A performance audit would review and quantify issues that have been plaguing the SBCC recently, such as:

- Effectiveness and timeliness in addressing statutory deadline for code adoption
- Coordination with state and county agencies responsible for enforcement;
- Its ability to provide pertinent guidance to stakeholders; and
- If its current structure and makeup best suit Hawai‘i’s current needs.

The original purpose of the SBCC was to facilitate coordination and consistency for the state building code system which was previously fragmented between the counties. However, the previously mentioned issues have grown more difficult for stakeholders in recent years. Notably, code adoption has been delayed, inconsistent guidance, and confusion over implementation of codes has created challenges for industry professionals and permitting agencies. Gentry Homes has experienced these issues, and it has impacted our ability to build new homes for Hawai‘i’s community in a timely, efficient manner.

Compounding these problems, the SBCC has essentially been non-operational following the Governor’s emergency proclamation in 2023. This hiatus has shown the value of the SBCC as well as its serious consequences when it is no longer operating at full capacity. Gentry Homes respectfully urges the committee to pass SCR 69 and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sunny Rosario".

Sunny Rosario
Manager of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations