

LATE TESTIMONY

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Testimony to House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Thursday, February 16, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Capitol Room 309

RE: H.B. 2358 HD1, Relating to Building Codes

Good morning Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone, Government Relations Director for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, BIA-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.

BIA-Hawaii respectfully **provides comments** on H.B. 2358 HD1, whose purpose is to promote uniformity in statewide building standards by establishing the Hawaii State Building Code Council and the Natural Disaster Preparedness Commission, adopting the Hawaii State Building Code, and repealing conflicting county building code provisions.

BIA-Hawaii participated in the legislative informational briefing on building codes so we understand the fact that building codes have become overly excessive, increasing the costs of construction, resulting in higher costs for homeowners. In 1991, the President's Commission on Housing reported: "Local building codes are often not geared to supporting cost-effective construction of affordable housing. They sometimes generate excessive costs by requiring unnecessarily expensive materials, unnecessary safety features, unnecessary building code requirements, or outmoded construction techniques."

BIA-Hawaii supports the intent behind the formation of a natural disaster preparedness commission to evaluate and validate current seismic and hurricane loads and risks relevant to the minimum requirements necessary for the health and safety of the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii strongly supports amending the composition of the existing State Building Code Council (SBCC) to assure that all stakeholders, especially from the construction industry, are represented and have a vote. The current SBCC includes seven government officials, one architect, and one structural engineer. Under HRS § 107-24(d): "The council shall consult with general building contractor associations and building trade associations to gather information and recommendations on construction practices and training relevant to building codes and standards." However, it does not require the council to include any of the recommendations in their final decisions.

Rep. Aquino, Chair
Public Safety and Military Affairs
February 16, 2012
HB 2358 HD1
BIA-Hawaii testimony

H.B. 2358 HD1 would reduce the amount of government officials to five, one with voting power, and the rest representing the construction industry, labor, real estate, insurance, farmers, and private homeowners. BIA-Hawaii strongly supports this proposed SBCC as it better reflects the community who actually build to these codes, and who has to pay for the cost of these new mandates.

One suggestion we respectfully make is to consider giving the four county building officials a vote on the SBCC as they are responsible for their respective county codes.

One concern BIA-Hawaii has is that all state construction would be exempt from the state building code under this measure. It would seem inequitable to impose these mandates on private construction projects while exempting the entity that created them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with your our views.

LATE TESTIMONY



Testimony Reference : HB 2358 HD1
Committee :

Date of Hearing: Jan 16

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

SUPPORT with amendments

In Hawaii all construction contractors are licensed by the State of Hawaii and are authorized to work in all counties. Yet each county/island has historically had conflicting or contradicting rules and regulations.

There is an overwhelming need to have a State Building Code. One set of rules for the entire State, with one authority.

We ask that the bill be amended to have a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union United on the council. Hawaii Farm Bureau is and they can speak well for the large industrial corporate agribusiness....but this measure speaks to the small farmer. It is reported that over 85% of the farmers in Hawaii, of the 7,500 farmers in the state, are on land less than two acres. They need representation from an farm organization that will address their concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez
HFUU President
FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono- crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.

1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 16, 2012

TO: HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES HENRY AQUINO, CHAIR,
TY CULLEN, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: **COMMENTS REGARDING H.B. 2358, HD1 RELATING TO BUILDING CODE.** Establishes the Hawaii State Building Code, Hawaii State Building Code Council, and Natural Disaster Preparedness Commission. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB2358 HD1)

HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 16

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen and Members:

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over six hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year; it remains the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. GCA is submitting **comments** regarding H.B. 2358, HD1, Relating to the Building Code.

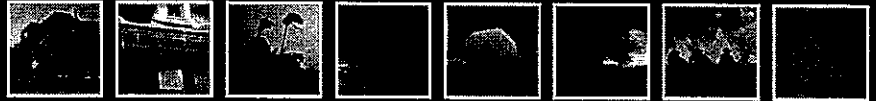
H.B. 2358, HD1 proposes to amend Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to allow the Hawaii State Building Code Council to determine whether to approve any amendment to the state building code. This bill also creates a Natural disaster preparedness commission which shall consist of nine members with expertise in climate, geology and other scientific disciplines to advise on the Hawaii state building code council related to natural disasters. Further, this bill amends the Hawaii State Building Code Council, including adding the GCA as a member and allows for an appropriation in order for the duties of the council to be carried out.

GCA is willing to participate in the Hawaii State Building Code Council, alongside the technical experts in the building industry to ensure a balance of public health and safety with construction industry practices. GCA may have some concerns with amendments proposed to Section 107-25 HRS, which would require that the Hawaii state building code consist of the 2012 International Building Code. However, GCA understands that the bill proposes to offer a balanced approach.

The GCA therefore, requests that this Committee pass out H.B. 2358, HD1 and is willing to participate in the Hawaii State Building Code Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views on this measure.

LIVE TESTIMONY



February, 16, 2012

TO: House of Representatives
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representatives Henry J. D. Aquino, Chair and Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

SUBJECT: House Bill 2358 HD1 Relating to the Building Code

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Statement in Opposition to House Bill 2358 Relating to the State Building Code Council

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) is a 501(c)(3) organization, wholly supported by the property (re)insurance industry. IBHS' mission is to conduct objective, scientific research to identify and promote effective actions that strengthen homes, businesses, and communities against natural disasters and other causes of loss. IBHS does this by conducting research and advocating improved construction, maintenance, and preparation practices.

Among IBHS' highest priorities is the adoption and enforcement of strong, mandatory statewide building codes. IBHS has a number of concerns about HB 2358, but will focus on the composition of the Building Code Council. The code review and adoption in Hawaii is delegated to the Building Code Council, as it is in most states. Generally, the representatives on the Council are engineers, architects, building officials, and the various trades involved in commercial construction. HB 2358 seeks to remove the building official, state fire marshal representative and the structural engineer. IBHS believes each of those positions to be extremely important to a balanced and technically sound Council.

The responsibility for enforcement of the codes is the responsibility of the building official and the state fire marshal's office. Both these representatives possess a strong knowledge of the provisions of the code, as well as knowledge about the challenges of enforcing the technical provisions of the code. Likewise, the structural engineer is generally represented on the Council to provide expertise in the building code, as well as the many standards that are referenced in the code. HB 2358 provides for an architect but deletes the inclusion of a structural engineer. Architects and structural engineers work together to design buildings but possess very different skills, which combine to produce a finished set of drawings for construction. HB 2358 appears to create a Council that would not be reflective of the stakeholders involved in the construction of commercial buildings.

The various volumes of the code contain complex, technical provisions that should be reviewed, amended and adopted by representatives of the construction community who are familiar with and understand the code. HB 2358 replaces the individuals described above with representatives of non-technical organizations that would not typically have knowledge of the codes.

House Bill 2358 would undermine key components that IBHS believes are essential to an effective state building code regime. A balanced panel of experts in codes is essential to an effective state building regime. We urge that House Bill 2696 be set aside.

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 8:45 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: tony@rmasalesco.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2358 on 2/16/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 2/16/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2358

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Borge
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tony@rmasalesco.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

RMA Sales is a locally owned and operated company that has been in business for over 50 years. We employ 16 full time people. We are also members of the Building Industry of Hawaii. We are in support of HB 2358 HD1.

Thank you.