



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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February 11, 2013

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 425
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans:

Subject: H.B. 763 Relating to Public Improvements

I am Robert Westerman, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC and the KFD opposes H.B. 763, which seeks to modify the composition of the Hawaii State Building Code Council and revises the State Building Code.

The SFC has been a voting member of the SBCC since its inception in 2007. The SBCC is administratively attached to the State Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and whose duties include establishing a comprehensive suite of the most current national codes and standards for the statewide application of the built environment. Previous to its creation, each county adopted ordinances that comprised of codes and standards for its jurisdiction. Consequently, each county had different editions of the building codes that created challenges for designers and builders.

The SFC supports the concept authorizing the SBCC to recommend any necessary or desirable state amendments to the model codes defined in section 107-25, and assign the staggering of adoption of the codes that shall be adopted, amended, and updated at a frequency of not later than every six years in accordance with section 107-28. This would streamline the state approval process by eliminating the need for administrative rules, but allowing more time for review at the state level.

The SFC supports the concept authorizing the SBCC to review and bi-annually disseminate an itemized report of the substantially uniform code amendments utilized by all four counties. By allowing the SBCC to disseminate substantially uniform codes amendments by all four counties, would also expedite the county building code approval process, thereby creating a uniform set of building codes for each county. However, the

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provision to allow the counties to amend and adopt the state building code with county amendments as it applies within its respective jurisdiction without state approval, ensures that each county can address local conditions for building, administration, permitting and enforcement.

The SFC also supports the addition of DAGS, who provide support for the design, construction and maintenance of state projects and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, who promotes industry development, economic diversification, energy efficiency and conservation.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's deferral of H.B. 763, as this measure would not meet the intent and purpose of why the SBCC was created.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



ROBERT WESTERMAN
Chair

RW/LR:cc