

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
WATER AND LAND
ON
FEBRUARY 5, 2016

H.B. 2191

RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Chair Yamane and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 2191. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of H.B. 2191 (the measure).

We support the intent of this measure as the State Building Code Council (the Council) requires dedicated administrative support and long-term funding to achieve its objectives provided the appropriation of any general funds does not have a negative impact on the administration's executive supplemental budget and initiatives submitted for fiscal year 2017. The Council currently has no funding and administrative support is provided by volunteers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Comptroller

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Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
The House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 324
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Takayama:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2191 Relating to the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

I am Socrates Bratakos, Chair of the SBCC, Administrator of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Assistant Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC has been a voting member of the SBCC since its formation in 2007. The SBCC, SFC and the HFD strongly support HB 2191.

The SBCC, which is administratively attached to the State of Hawaii's Department of Accounting and General Services, is comprised of subject matter experts, government agencies, and construction industry representatives with the authority to establish a comprehensive suite of codes applicable to all building construction in the State of Hawaii in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 107-24. The National, model codes and standards, which are updated every three years, establish minimum requirements to protect life, property, and the general welfare of our citizens for the built environment. The SBCC is responsible to establish statewide, uniform building standards for the following:

1. State Fire Code
2. State Plumbing Code
3. State Building Code
4. State Residential Code
5. State Electrical Code
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
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7. Additional codes and standards include, but are not limited to, elevators, mechanical systems, hurricane, flood and tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage disposal.

There are approximately 60,000 Hawaii homeowner flood insurance policies that could be jeopardized by the State failing to stay in compliance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Moreover, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is not obligated to provide disaster assistance funds to any state that is not in compliance with the NFIP requirements, nor make available any disaster mitigation grants. Also, private insurance and re-insurance companies consider the building codes adopted by the state in determining natural hazard risks and insurance rate structures.

Since its inception in 2007, there has been no funding for the SBCC, which is needed for support staff or contracted services for administrative functions and rule adoption expenses. The currently adopted State building, residential, electrical, plumbing and energy efficiency codes are in excess of 9 years from national standards. This negates the dedicated efforts of 11 unpaid volunteers who have individually expended hundreds of hours over the past 8 years. We anticipate the annual operating costs of the SBCC to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

We strongly urge your committees' support and passage of HB 2051.

Should you have questions, please contact me at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



SOCRATES BRATAKOS
Chair, State Building Code Council

SB/EYS:clc

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
The House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 324
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Takayama:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2191 Relating to the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

I am Robert F. Westerman, Vice-Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC has been a voting member of the SBCC since its formation in 2007. The SBCC, SFC and the KFD strongly support HB 2191.

The SBCC, which is administratively attached to the State of Hawaii's Department of Accounting and General Services, is comprised of subject matter experts, government agencies, and construction industry representatives with the authority to establish a comprehensive suite of codes applicable to all building construction in the State of Hawaii in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 107-24. The National, model codes and standards, which are updated every three years, establish minimum requirements to protect life, property, and the general welfare of our citizens for the built environment. The SBCC is responsible to establish statewide, uniform building standards for the following:

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4. State Residential Code

February 3, 2016

5. State Electrical Code
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
7. Additional codes and standards include, but are not limited to, elevators, mechanical systems, hurricane, flood and tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage disposal.

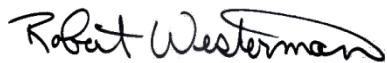
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Since its inception in 2007, there has been no funding for the SBCC, which is needed for support staff or contracted services for administrative functions and rule adoption expenses. The currently adopted State building, residential, electrical, plumbing and energy efficiency codes are in excess of 9 years from national standards. This negates the dedicated efforts of 11 unpaid volunteers who have individually expended hundreds of hours over the past 8 years. We anticipate the annual operating costs of the SBCC to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

We strongly urge your committees' support and passage of HB 2051.

Please call me at (808) 241-4975 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

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Testimony to the House Committee on Water & Land
The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee
Friday, February 5, 2016

LATE

RE: H.B. 2191, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-HAWAII supports the intent of H.B. 2191, which proposes to:

- 1) Make an appropriation to fund the State Building Code Council's administrative expenses.
- 2) Requires the Council to develop plans and strategies to secure long-term dedicated funding for Council operations.

We support the need to provide this body with the staff and resources to effectively review and implement revisions to the building codes for all of the counties. Since building codes benefit the entire state population, utilizing general funds is the only appropriate way the State Building Code Council (SBCC) should be funded.

Therefore, the creation of a task force to plan and strategize to secure long-term dedicated funding is both troublesome and unnecessary. Members of the current Council have already created a list of funding alternatives that include such things as an additional building permit fee and utilizing funds from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. These funding sources are inappropriate because the funds would be generated from a small group to benefit the entire State.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

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Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii
GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII
Quality People. Quality Projects.

Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 5, 2016

LATE

TO: HONORABLE RYAN YAMANE, CHAIR, HONORABLE TY CULLEN, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF H.B. 2051, RELATING TO STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.**
Appropriates money to the state building code council.

SUPPORT OF H.B. 2191, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY. Makes an appropriation to fund the State Building Code Council's administrative expenses. Requires the Council to develop plans and strategies to secure long-term dedicated funding for Council operations. Appropriates funds.

HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 5, 2016
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Cullen and Members,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred seventy general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

GCA **supports** H.B. 2051, Relating to State Building Code & H.B. 2191, Relating to Public Safety, which both propose to fund the State Building Code Council, whom since its inception has not been funded. Yet, the members of the State Building Code Council continue to meet monthly and engage industry stakeholders and government agencies who are interested in addressing model building codes that govern how both public and private buildings are constructed.

In 2007, this body recognized its importance and memorialized such in a Committee report when it said,

[t]he adoption of a uniform set of statewide building codes applicable to one and two family dwellings, all other residential uses, commercial and industrial buildings, and state buildings would make it possible for building owners, designers, contractors and code enforcers within the State to apply a consistent standard. The health and safety considerations related to the codes are of statewide interest, especially relating to emergency disaster preparedness. Hawaii State Legislature S. Comm Rpt. 784, March 2, 2007.

In order for the State Building Code Council to deliver on the adoption of uniform building codes -- it is imperative if they have administrative support to successfully complete their duties.

The GCA appreciates the Committee hearing this measure and thank you for the opportunity to share our support of this measure.