

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: ronnette.l.correa@hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2638 on Feb 9, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:23:40 AM

SB2638

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for GVO on Feb 9, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnette Correa	DAGS/Comptroller	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
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DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

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

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

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Government Operations
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2638 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 SB 2638.

The SBCC, is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services. It 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. National, model codes and standards, which are updated every three years, establish minimum requirements for building construction to protect life, property, and the general welfare of our citizens. 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
7. Additional codes and standards include, but are not limited to, elevators, mechanical systems, hurricane, flood and tsunami, existing buildings, and onsite sewage disposal.

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
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February 8, 2016

The currently adopted State building, residential, electrical, plumbing and energy efficiency codes are in excess of nine years from national standards. This negates the dedicated efforts of eleven unpaid volunteers who have individually expended hundreds of hours over the past eight years. Since its inception in 2007, there has been no funding for the SBCC, which is needed for support staff or contracted services and related rule adoption expenses.

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.

We anticipate the annual operating costs of the SBCC to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and we strongly urge your committees' support and passage of SB 2638.

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
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Government Operations
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2638 Relating to the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

I am Robert F. Westerman, Vice Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC has been a voting member of the SBCC since its formation in 2007. The SFC and the KFD strongly support SB 2638.

The SBCC, is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services. It 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. National, model codes and standards, which are updated every three years, establish minimum requirements for building construction to protect life, property, and the general welfare of our citizens. The SBCC is responsible to establish statewide, uniform building standards for the following:

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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.

The currently adopted State building, residential, electrical, plumbing and energy efficiency codes are in excess of nine years from national standards. This negates the dedicated efforts of eleven unpaid volunteers who have individually expended hundreds of hours over the past eight years. Since its inception in 2007, there has been no funding for the SBCC, which is needed for support staff or contracted services and related rule adoption expenses.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

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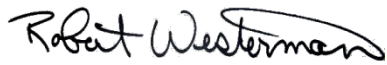
February 8, 2016

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.

We anticipate the annual operating costs of the SBCC to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and we strongly urge your committees' support and passage of SB 2638.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

BIA-HAWAII

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THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations Tuesday, February 9, 2016 1:15 PM. State Capitol - Conference Room 414

RE: S.B. 2638, Relating to the State Building Code Council

Dear Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Ihara, 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 **strongly supports** S.B. 2638, which provides an appropriation to the State Building Code Council (SBCC). 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 SBCC should be funded.

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

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2938

Phone: (808) 537-5619 ✦ Fax: (808) 533-2739

February 9, 2016

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: S.B. 2638 - RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii and we support this bill. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

The State Building Code Council performs a very valuable function in trying to harmonize the various code requirements as found in the building code. While it has had plenty of enthusiasm to do so, it has had virtually no resources to do so. In consideration of the importance and the purpose of the building code in making structures safe for human habitation, we think that giving the Council the appropriate resources is very necessary and essential.

Based on the above we highly recommend passage of this bill.

Thank you.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2016
TIME: 1:15 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: BILL NO. SB2638 RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Aloha Chair Mercado-Kim, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee:


My name is Gino Soquena, and I am the Government and Community Relations Director for The Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368 which represents almost 5,000 members throughout the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill No. SB2638 which would appropriate money to fund the State Building Code Council.

The Hawaii Laborers' Union Local 368 has long supported efforts to conserve our most precious resource which is water. Over the last 2 years the Laborers Union Local 368 has hosted quarterly Non Potable Water Workshops which focuses on conserving water by recycling "grey" water. The workshop participants agreed to making funding the State Building Code Council a priority this legislative session because the State Building Code Council is the entity that adopts plumbing codes along with electrical codes, fire codes and building codes essential to achieving it's goals of water conservation.

Additionally, in the 2014 legislative session, Act 164 was passed with language appropriating money to fund the State Building Code Council but those moneys were never released and the State Building Code Council currently still remains unfunded.

For these reasons, The Laborers' Union Local 368 respectfully requests your favorable consideration for the passage of Bill No. SB2638. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eugene "Gino" Soquena
Government & Community Relations Director
Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368



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Geolabs, Inc.
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February 8, 2016

**Senate Committee on Government Operations
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 9, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414**

Honorable Senators Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Les Ihara, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Subject: **SB 2638, Relating to the State Building Code Council
Testimony in SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ihara, and Committee Members:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) represents more than 70 member firms with over 1,500 employees throughout Hawaii. Our work covers a variety of engineering disciplines that are impacted directly by the technical portions of the building codes. The primary purpose of a building code is to establish design standards for buildings in order to protect public safety.

The health and safety considerations related to the codes are of statewide interest, especially relating to emergency disaster preparedness. The State Legislature recognized in Act 82 (2007) that "(t)he status of fragmented building requirements in Hawaii is of serious concern to those involved in building ownership, design, construction, and insurance," and passed a bill to establish the State Building Code and Council. The State Building Code Council determines the amendments necessary to make national model codes and standards appropriate for Hawaii. These state codes are also used as the starting basis for the local county codes, so that unnecessary divergences between the building codes adopted by the counties are avoided.

However, there are presently no ongoing administrative activities to modernize building codes, due to the fact that the State Building Code Council under the Department of Accounting and General Services has not been funded since 2008. The State Building Code and its design standards are becoming severely out-of-date with the state-of-practice of the national standards used elsewhere in the country by architects, engineers, trade unions, and building officials, as well as the federal government. Hawaii is amongst only five states in the country that still uses 2006 or older building codes; it is three code versions behind the national model code, and it will be four code versions behind by the end of 2016.

Therefore, ACEC-Hawai'i strongly supports this bill to fund the State Building Code Council. By doing so, the State would be leveraging the hundreds of hours of volunteer effort expended by design and construction professionals that still assist the State Building Code Council in deliberating the consensus agreement of the codes and standards that are best suited for current use in Hawaii. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF HAWAII

Robin M. Lim, PE
President