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February 1, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 420  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 637 Relating to the State Building Codes

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD offer the following comments on HB 637, which proposes to expedite the review, update, and adoption of the most current Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) through amendments to the state building codes.

The bill requires that the State Building Code Council (SBCC) review and adopt amendments to the UPC within one year after it is published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

Presently, the 2006 UPC is the adopted state plumbing code. Although the amendments to the 2012 UPC have been completed, funds have never been appropriated to the SBCC for staff to guide the UPC amendments through the administrative rule process and provide notice of public hearings. As a result, only the fire, energy, and elevator codes are on the most current edition, as they have dedicated staff in other state departments to accomplish this task.

We hope this bill sheds light on the need for the state to fund the SBCC so all buildings codes can be updated to the most current edition.

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The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
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February 1, 2017

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. P. Neves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

GAUR JOHNSON  
[gaur@hawaii.edu](mailto:gaur@hawaii.edu)  
956-2377

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 637  
A BILL RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODES

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

BY

Gaur Johnson

SEAOH representative to, and current chair of, the State Building Code Council (SBCC)

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land.

I am Gaur Johnson, the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii's representative to the State Building Code Council (SBCC) and the current chair of the SBCC. I am testifying on behalf of myself in **OPPOSITION** of House Bill 637.

I am providing this testimony on behalf of myself because the council has not yet had an opportunity to review and discuss the bill. My testimony and the bill will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled SBCC meeting on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am since we were not aware of this bill prior to it being introduced.

This bill proposes changing HRS 107-24(f) and HRS 107-28 for the purpose of expediting the review, update, and adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code as it relates to the Hawaii State Building Codes. Essentially the language shortens the required time frame for adoption of the State Plumbing Code by the SBCC and the counties.

This measure will not be effective in actually changing the timely adoption of the UFC. The delay in updating the State Plumbing Code and most other codes considered by the SBCC is due to a lack of funding of the executive director and executive assistant positions and other expenses required to complete the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process after the SBCC has approved the technical language of amendments to the national standards such as the UPC. Technical review of the 2012 UPC has occurred and has been approved by the council, however, there are no funds to complete the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process. This means that county adoption timelines have not been triggered. Details regarding the challenges that the SBCC has faced due to insufficient funding since its formation in 2007 are provide in the SBCC's annual report to the legislature (Department Communication 27). The report is available at this link: <http://ags.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/BldgCodeCouncil2016.pdf>

I hope that the proponents of this bill will attend future SBCC meetings and coordinate with the council so that we can discuss and jointly pursue effective means for making the code adoption process timelier to best serve the state of Hawaii. Current and previous members of the SBCC understand the frustration that the proponents of this bill must feel but the proposed measure will not accomplish their goal. I think the current timeline in HRS 107 is realistic and attainable if the council is fully funded so that we can carry out the obligatory Hawaii Administrative Rule making process.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **OPPOSITION** of HB 637.

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**LATE**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Water & Land**  
**February 3, 2017**  
**9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 325**

**RE: HB 637 – Relating to State Building Codes**

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Kong, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone, 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.

S.B. 634, Relating to State Building Codes, would require the State Building Code Council to adopt provisions of an updated Uniform Plumbing Code within one year after it is published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. The bill would also require the various county councils to act within one year of the updated uniform plumbing code is adopted by the State Building Code Council. Current statutes allow the Council to review and adopt any changes as appropriate to new model building codes within eighteen months of publication by the various associations that review and adopt model codes.

BIA-Hawaii is opposed to the passage of this measure, as it will require the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to give preference to adoption of plumbing and water code amendments over any other pending reviews of other model codes. The SBCC has no staff or funding, and meets infrequently. The current review process of eighteen months is already short, given the number and complexity of codes that the SBCC reviews and adopts. Also, the SBCC has no staff or funding, and meets infrequently.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# Wai Maoli

HAWAII FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

827 Fort Street Mall | Honolulu, HI 96813 | (808) 537-6333  
HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org



## Fresh Water Council Members

- William Aila
- Stephen Anthony\*
- Michael Buck
- Suzanne Case
- Reginald Castanares
- Meredith Ching
- Derek Chow
- Ka'eo Duarte
- Sumner Erdman
- Mark Fox
- Thomas Giambelluca
- Timothy Johns
- Howard Killian
- Patrick Kobayashi
- Ernest Lau
- Keith Okamoto
- Jerry Ornellas
- Monty Richards
- Kapua Sproat
- David Taylor
- Dennis Teranishi
- Barry Usagawa

\*US Geological Survey  
Liaison/Scientific Advisor to HCF



**Testimony of the  
Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative  
on  
H.B. 637  
Relating to the State Building Codes  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, February 3, 2017  
Conference Room 325**

The Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports H.B. 637, which encourages the conservation and efficient use of water resources by expediting updates of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 and gathered a diverse Fresh Water Council to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii. The blue ribbon panel of water stakeholders jointly and unanimously recommend key strategies and policies with an ultimate goal of creating 100 million gallons per day (mgd) in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030. One of the key strategies to achieve the statewide water conservation goal of 40 mgd is to increase the use of non-potable water for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

The Uniform Plumbing Code establishes the minimum requirements and standards for the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use, or maintenance of plumbing systems, for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

Under the current law:

- The State Building Code Council is required to review and adopt the new Code within 18 months of its publication by the Association; and
- The county is required to adopt the updated code and standards not later than 2 years after the Code is adopted by the State Building Code Council (which can be up to 42 months after the updated Code is published by the Association).

H.B. 637 requires:

- The State Building Code Council to review and adopt the amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year of publication by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials; and
- The counties to adopt the amendments made to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year after they adopted by the Council.
- H.B. 637 provides that if the amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code are not adopted by a county in the one-year, the Code shall become the applicable as an interim county building code.

H.B. 637 will expedite the adoption of the revisions to the Uniform Plumbing Code published by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and help advance Hawai'i's water security goals.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 637 and urge its passage.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

## MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth*

**LATE**

### HOUSE WATER AND LAND COMMITTEE

Friday, February 3, 2017 9:00 AM Room 325

**In SUPPORT HB637 Relating to State Building Codes**

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the House Water and Land Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB637 to direct adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code and thereby improve our conservation and re-use of water.

For nearly 50 years, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has helped people explore, enjoy, and protect the Hawaiian Islands. The work of our volunteers spans the spectrum of community engagement, including outdoor education, lobbying, and elections. Our volunteers participate in the several task forces and consultations related to state building codes and specifically the uniform plumbers code.

The Sierra Club strongly supports adoption of the most up-to-date versions of the Uniform Plumbing Code issued by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. The IAPMO is the gathering of global experts in the area of plumbing — it is not trade association nor an advocate for development — and it is focused on the technical aspects of implementing sound building and construction practices around the world. This is the body that we should be listening to when it comes to setting reasonable, protective standards for our buildings.

We support adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code today because it would allow for the systematic re-use of gray water in Hawai'i. Re-using non-potable water in homes and businesses is one of the most significant steps we can take to protect our drinking water resources for the future. The UPC outlines exactly how to install purple pipes to maximize water re-use while also protecting public health and safety.

As this Committee knows, water is life. And for an island community like ours, we cannot import our water from other places. We must do absolutely everything we can to protect and conserve our water resources for future generations. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend  
Director

1065 Ahua Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167  
Email: [info@gcahawaii.org](mailto:info@gcahawaii.org)  
Website: [www.gcahawaii.org](http://www.gcahawaii.org)



# GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

**LATE**

Uploaded via Capitol Website

January 31, 2017

TO: HONORABLE RYAN YAMANE, CHAIR, HONORABLE SAM KONG, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO H.B. 637 RELATING TO STATE BUILDING CODES.**  
Expedites the review, update, and adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code as it relates to the Hawaii State Building Codes.

Committee Hearing

DATE: Friday, February 3, 2017  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
PLACE: Room 325

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the Committee

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The 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.

H.B. 637, Relating To The State Building Code, would require the State Building Code Council to adopt provisions of the an updated Uniform Plumbing Code within one year after it is published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. The bill would also require the various county councils to act within one year of the updated uniform plumbing code is adopted by the State Building Code Council. Current statutes allows the Council to review and adopt any changes as appropriate to new model building codes within eighteen months of publication by the various associations that review and adopt model codes.

GCA is opposed to the passage of this measure as it will require the State Building Code Council to give preference to adoption of Plumbing and water code amendments over any other pending reviews of other model codes, such as the electrical code, fire code and building codes. The current review process of eighteen months is already tight, given the number and complexity of codes that the Council reviews and adopts. The Council composed of the county planning and building officials and various interested parties usually meets only once and has no staff and must rely on the staff of the Department of Accounting and General Services clerical and administrative support.

Given the critical often technical nature of the work required to review and evaluate changes proposed in revised model codes, the GCA believes that the review and adoption process is already short and that the Council should be given the discretion as to how and when the various



reviews should proceed. The Council also needs time to insure that all interested parties have a chance to comment. Moreover the Council is in the process of adopting the Uniform Plumbing Code together with other Codes to address the recent adoptions of national codes.

For the above reasons, the GCA recommends that this measure not be passed by the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** Jacqueline Miyashiro  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 637, ICC not able to support



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**From:** Kraig Stevenson [mailto:KStevenson@iccsafe.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kong <repkong@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 637, ICC not able to support

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Sam Kong, Vice Chair  
House Committee on water and Land

Re: HB 637, ICC not able to support

Dear Chair Yamane,

Thank you for clarifying to me during the hearing that I can submit testimony today in care of Vice Chair Sam Kong.

ICC supports the efforts of the Hawaii State Building Code Council (SBCC) and their efforts to coordinate adoption of the codes named in HRS 107-25. All codes need to be reviewed in harmony and to assess the collective impacts and benefits to all of the citizens in the State. ICC believes (if codes must expedited) it is in the best interest of the State to expedite all codes together. The SBCC is the place representatives from the affected parties participate and provide input to the SBCC regarding adoption of codes.

I must point out the SBCC has not been funded since it was created in Act 82 of 2006. To move adoption of the codes the SBCC needs funding. Without funding this will prevent the codes from being adopted into Hawaii Administrative Rules, HARs.

My last observation is if there is the interest to enhance water use efficiency. If that is the true goal of the legislation, I suggest it may be more expeditious to refer to the the work the SBCC has already positioned to address water use efficiency? The SBCC created a work group in 2012 to study the adoption of the Water Efficiency Provisions of the International Green Construction Code (WEO of the IGCC). This was a direct response to proposed legislation in 2012 which was SB 2290 and SB 2271. The Chair of that SBCC committee, Sherman Wong, reported in the Fall of 2014 the recommendation to adopt the WEP of the IGCC. We suggest this as a possible amendment to the legislation as it will have the ability to most quickly implement requirements that will reduce water consumption by up to 20% over the state adopted plumbing code.

ICC is not able to support HB 637 as proposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kraig Stevenson  
International Code Council  
[Kstevenson@iccsafe.org](mailto:Kstevenson@iccsafe.org)

Sent from my iPad

Sharpen your leadership skills, expand your code knowledge and earn CEUs. [Register now](#) to attend the International Code Council's (ICC's) ***Training and Certification Summit***, May 22–26, 2017 at the University of Texas at Arlington. *Optional Certification Exams will be available.*