

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE
LOSS REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

VERN T. MIYAGI
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee.

I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).
I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

Situation:

The State Building Code Council (SBCC) was created in 2007, however staff and operating expenses have never been funded. It is currently staffed by stakeholder volunteers. A major responsibility of the SBCC is to establish residential and hurricane resistant standards related to loss mitigation standards established in section 431P-12 (HHRF). Due to the lack of operational and personnel funding for the SBCC and despite its best efforts, the state is currently three iterations behind in updating and adopting the international code standards. Once adopted by the state, the counties have two years to amend the state codes prior to county adoption, otherwise the state building code will become the county's code. This provision was put in place to ensure the counties use the most recent versions of the model building codes when using their administrative authority.

Consequences:

This situation adversely affects the timely receipt of Federal disaster aid by the state since such aid requires the application of the most recent edition of the model building code. FEMA Recovery Policy FP 104-009-4, that governs Federal assistance in the event of a declared Presidential Disaster, has a condition of public assistance that "buildings eligible for repair, replacement, or construction located in a hazard prone area will use, as a minimum, the hazard resistant standards referenced in the most recent

edition of the model building codes regarding reconstruction/ repair of building damages during Presidential declared disasters.”

In addition, recent studies by FEMA propose the leveling of a “disaster deductible” on jurisdictions, similar to a deductible in an insurance policy. This deductible would be decreased based on pre-disaster mitigation measures taken by the state before the declaration. Updated building codes are specifically listed as mitigation measures for this purpose.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii state and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis – **once every three years**.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB 1154

Vern T. Miyagi; vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

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GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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LEONARD HOSHIJO
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February 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1154 Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund
Comprehensive Loss Reduction Plan

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 support SB 1154, which proposes to clarify the loss reduction plan for the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to include implementing code requirements for hurricane standards in accordance with state building code and design standards.

The bill supports the State Building Code Council (SBCC) in reviewing and adopting amendments to the various building codes dealing with hurricane preparedness. The SBCC is required to adopt building codes within 18 months of publishing a new edition.

Presently, many building codes still reference their 2006 editions, which include the plumbing, residential, and building codes. Amendments to the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code, International Residential Code, and the International Building Code have been completed, but lack the funding to process them through the administrative rule process, which has stalled and most likely will not be adopted. As a result, only the fire, energy, and elevator codes are on the most current editions due to dedicated staff in other state departments that guide these codes through the adoption process.

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The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Page 2
February 13, 2017

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of SB 1154 for the safety and general welfare of our citizens.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

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


MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and Members of Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Douglas Haigh, Chief Building Division, County of Kauai 

SUBJECT: SB 1154 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN

DATE: 2/13/17

This testimony is in support of Senate Bill 1154. The State Building Code Council has had virtually no resources to implement the Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) making process. Without completing this process the State Building Code cannot be updated. This bill allows the HHRF to use its resources for updating the State Building Code, which is the most effective way to implement the latest hurricane resistive construction techniques throughout the state.

The following is what can happen if the State Building Code is updated once every three to six years using the latest national standards for designing buildings for hurricane resistance: (1) more structures which protect our businesses and people are better able to resist the effects of the next storm, and (2) the economy and the HHRF are both made more resilient since costs of repair and loss of economic activity in the aftermath of a storm will be reduced in the long run.

Thank you for considering passing of SB 1154.

cc: Managing Director, County of Kauai
Acting County Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 524-3439

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF S.B. 1154 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE
RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN**

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City).

DEM strongly supports H.B. 1154 which proposes the timely updating/implementation of the Hawaii state and county building code hurricane standards by the State Building Code Council (SBCC) on a consistent recurring basis of once every three years.

The purpose of S.B. 1154 is to ensure that the State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu, Kauai County, Maui County, and Hawaii County are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds to repair, replace, or construct facilities that were damaged or destroyed during a Presidentially Declared Disaster.

FEMA Recovery Policy FP 104-009-4 governs Federal public assistance in the event of a declared disaster and stipulates that assistance eligibility for repairs, replacing, or construction must use, as a minimum, the hazard resistant standards referenced in the most recent edition of the state building code (IBC, IEBC, and IRBC) regarding reconstruction and repair of building damages during Presidentially Declared Disasters.

I urge your committee to pass SB 1154. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin N. Kaku".

Melvin N. Kaku
Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

DAVID C. GOODE
Director

ROWENA M. DAGDAG-ANDAYA
Deputy Director



GLEN A. UENO, P.E., P.L.S.
Development Services Administration

CARY YAMASHITA, P.E.
Engineering Division

LESLI L. OTANI, P.E., L.S.
Highways Division

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
250 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS
REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

Glen A. Ueno, P.E., L.S.
Administrator, Development Services Administration

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

I am Glen A. Ueno, Administrator, Development Services Administration and a current member of the State Building Code Council. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

The State Building Code Council (SBCC) was created in 2007, however staff and operating expenses have never been funded. It is currently staffed by stakeholder volunteers. A major responsibility of the SBCC is to establish residential and hurricane resistant standards related to loss mitigation standards established in section 431P-12 (HHRF). Due to the lack of operational and personnel funding for the SBCC and despite its best efforts, the state is currently three iterations behind in updating and adopting the international code standards. By the end of FY 2017-2018 the state will be four iterations behind if the state fails to fund the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process to update the State Building Code. Once adopted by the state, the counties have two years to amend the state codes prior to county adoption; otherwise the state building code will become the county's code. This provision was put in place to ensure the counties use the most recent versions of the model building codes when using their administrative authority.

Although each county already has the authority to amend and adopt the international code standards before the state does, the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process helps each county and all other stakeholders in Hawaii to know that all proposed amendments and the original international building code have been thoroughly vetted. Each county benefits from the pooling of resources including all county, state, and volunteer organizations represented on the state building code council. Without this process being funded through its completion, implementation of the latest codes through the building permitting process at the county level has been hampered.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii state and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis – once every three years.

This is a creative, and appropriate, way to fund updating the state building code which is used by both private and public entities when they are planning a construction project. The result will mean that new construction will be built using the latest knowledge and strategies developed to protect our building stock from the hurricane threat. In the long run, fewer buildings will sustain hurricane damage thereby also protecting the HHRF assets.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB 1154.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:18 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: rwesterman@kauai.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1154 on Feb 14, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1154

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 14, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Westerman	Kauai Fire Department	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 13, 2017

**Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date: Friday, February 14, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**

Honorable Senators Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Subject: **SUPPORT of SB 1154, Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) represents more than 70 member engineering consulting 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.

In 2007 the State Building Code Council was established to perform a very valuable function in trying to harmonize the various code requirements as found in the building code ordinances across the state. While it has had plenty of enthusiasm to do so and the technical experts have developed the amendment language for several code cycles, the council has had virtually no resources to implement the Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) making process. Without completing this process the State Building Code cannot be updated.

This bill does not solve all of the funding requirements for the SBCC, however, it allows the HHRF to use its resources to fulfill the underlying mission of the HHRF. Updating the State Building Code is the most effective way to implement the latest hurricane resistive construction techniques throughout the state.

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

Corey Matsuoka, PE
President

HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

335 Merchant Street #213

Honolulu, HI 96813 (Phone: 586-2790)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

2:00 p.m.

REVISED TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1154 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and member of the committee, my name is Michael Hamnett, I serve as Chair, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund ("Fund") Board of Directors.

The Fund supports the intent of strengthening the building code statewide and provides the following comments.

This bill proposes that the Fund sponsor the implementation of state building code hurricane standards for structures and developments by funding the adoption of administrative rules to this effect.

It would be consistent with the hazard mitigation provisions of chapter 431P, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to use HHRF Trust Fund resources to support updating the hurricane protection portions of the State Building Code by the State Building Code Council. This bill appears to provide the flexibility for the Fund to either manage a consultant contract to do the work or to provide the funds to other state agencies such as DAGS or HEMA each of which has a significant interest in implementing modern buildings codes which address the hurricane peril. We would recommend, however that if the Legislature is so inclined, the amount of funding and the period of funding should be specified.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

335 Merchant Street #213

Honolulu, HI 96813 (Phone: 586-2790)

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1154 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN.

TO THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Michael Hamnett, Chair, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai`i
Hurricane Relief Fund ("Fund") Board of Directors.

The Fund supports the intent of strengthening the building code statewide and provides
the following comments.

This bill, which is a companion to H.B. 1435, proposes that the Fund: (1) sponsor,
develop, and implement state and county building code hurricane standards for structures
and developments; and (2) fund and support the adoption of administrative rules to this
effect.

Currently, the Fund is dormant and does not currently have the staff that would be
necessary to carry out these proposals. However, it would be consistent with the hazard
mitigation provisions of chapter 431P, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to use HHRF Trust Fund
resources to support updating the hurricane protection portions of the State Building
Code by the State Building Code Council. We would recommend, however that if the
Legislature is so inclined, the amount of funding and the period of funding should be
specified.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII
95-1030 MEHEULA PKWY #892711
MILILANI, HI 96789

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE
LOSS REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTED TO

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY
WILL GILES
MCAH LIAISON

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

I am Will Giles, Mason Contractors Association of Hawaii (MCAH) Liaison. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 1154**.

The MCAH supports measures that facilitate the timely adoption of the most recent International Building Codes with Hawaii specific amendments through the process which initiates at the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Members of the MCAH support this bill because we recognize that updating the State Building Code will have the primary effect of improving the resilience of the economy in Hawaii from the hurricane threat and indeed it will protect the assets of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

The most recent international building codes provide a model for local adoption which includes all the lessons learned through the tragedy of others who suffer from disasters such as hurricane, earthquake, tsunami and other threats we face in Hawaii.

The State Building Code is based on the International Building Code (IBC) which is updated every three years. When the IBC is updated, it incorporates all of the latest knowledge gained from researchers and technicians from around the world who observe the way buildings and structures have failed during these disasters. The updates also provide guidance on how to design structures using the latest construction techniques which can be more economical and efficient than older construction technologies. The State of Hawaii is currently three iterations behind updating the adopting the IBC. By the end of FY 2017-18, the State of Hawaii will be four iterations behind if the state fails to fund the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process to update the State Building Code. We are one of the last in the nation with a building code based on the 2006 IBC.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii State and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis –

once every three years. This bill provides a mechanism by which the HHRF could choose to assist the SBCC update the state building code. The SBCC code adoption process is the mechanism which will implement the hurricane hazard mitigation plans established by the HHRF. In future code cycles, when the SBCC and HHRF see that changes in nationally recognized codes/standards will help Hawaii to better mitigate the hurricane threat they can work together for the timely adoption of a new State Building Code.

Full funding of the SBCC has not been forthcoming from the State since its inception in 2007. MCAH knows that the SBCC has been searching for a creative, and appropriate way to fund updating the State Building Code which is used by both private and public agencies when they are planning a construction project. When this bill is implemented, the result will mean that new construction will be built using the latest knowledge and strategies developed to protect our buildings from the hurricane threat. In the long term, fewer buildings may be sustain hurricane damage, thereby protecting HHRF assets.

Thank you for allow me to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB 1154**.

MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII
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www.masonryhawaii.com

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE
LOSS REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTED TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

RYAN WADA
President, MCAH

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Ryan Wada, President, Mason Contractors Association of Hawaii. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

The MCAH supports measures that facilitate the timely adoption of the most recent International Building Codes with Hawaii specific amendments through the process which initiates at the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Members of the MCAH support this bill because we recognize that updating the State Building Code will have the primary effect of improving the resilience of the economy in Hawaii from the hurricane threat and indeed it will protect the assets of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

The most recent international building codes provide a model for local adoption which includes all the lessons learned through the tragedy of others who suffer from disasters such as hurricane, earthquake, tsunami and other threats we face in Hawaii.

The State Building Code is based on the International Building Code (IBC) which is updated every three years. When the IBC is updated, it incorporates all of the latest knowledge gained from researchers and technicians from around the world who observe the way buildings and structures have failed during these disasters. The updates also provide guidance on how to design structures using the latest construction techniques which can be more economical and efficient than older construction technologies. The State of Hawaii is currently three iterations behind updating the adopting the IBC. By the end of FY 2017-18, the State of Hawaii will be four iterations behind if the state fails to fund the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process to update the State Building Code. We are on the last in the nation with a building code based on the 2006 IBC.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii State and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis – once every three years. This bill provides a mechanism by which the HHRF could choose to assist the SBCC update the state building code. The SBCC code adoption process is the mechanism which will implement the hurricane hazard mitigation plans

established by the HHRF. In future code cycles, when the SBCC and HHRF see that changes in nationally recognized codes/standards will help Hawaii to better mitigate the hurricane threat they can work together for the timely adoption of a new State Building Code.

Full funding of the SBCC has not been forthcoming from the State since its inception in 2007. MCAH knows that the SBCC has been searching for a creative, and appropriate way to fund updating the State building code which is used by both private and public agencies when they are planning a construction project. When this bill is implemented, the result will mean that new construction will be built using the latest knowledge and strategies developed to protect our buildings from the hurricane threat. In the long term, fewer buildings will be sufficiently capable of withstanding hurricane damage thereby protecting the HHRF assets.

Thank you for allow me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

MASONRY INSTITUTE OF HAWAII
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Mililani, HI 96789
www.masonryhawaii.com

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE
LOSS REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTED TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

RODNEY HARAGA
Director, MIH

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Rodney Haraga, Director of the Masonry Institute of Hawaii. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

The MIH supports measures that facilitate the timely adoption of the most recent International Building Codes with Hawaii specific amendments through the process which initiates at the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Members of the MIH support this bill because we recognize that updating the State Building Code will have the primary effect of improving the resilience of the economy in Hawaii from the hurricane threat and indeed it will protect the assets of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

The most recent international building codes provide a model for local adoption which includes all the lessons learned through the tragedy of others who suffer from disasters such as hurricane, earthquake, tsunami and other threats we face in Hawaii.

The State Building Code is based on the International Building Code (IBC) which is updated every three years. When the IBC is updated, it incorporates all of the latest knowledge gained from researchers and technicians from around the world who observe the way buildings and structures have failed during these disasters. The updates also provide guidance on how to design structures using the latest construction techniques which can be more economical and efficient than older construction technologies. The State of Hawaii is currently three iterations behind updating the adopting the IBC. By the end of FY 2017-18, the State of Hawaii will be four iterations behind if the state fails to fund the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process to update the State Building Code. We are on the last in the nation with a building code based on the 2006 IBC.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii State and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis – once every three years. This bill provides a mechanism by which the HHRF could choose to assist the SBCC update the state building code. The SBCC code adoption process is the mechanism which will implement the hurricane hazard mitigation plans

established by the HHRF. In future code cycles, when the SBCC and HHRF see that changes in nationally recognized codes/standards will help Hawaii to better mitigate the hurricane threat they can work together for the timely adoption of a new State Building Code.

Full funding of the SBCC has not been forthcoming from the State since its inception in 2007. MIH knows that the SBCC has been searching for a creative, and appropriate way to fund updating the State building code which is used by both private and public agencies when they are planning a construction project. When this bill is implemented, the result will mean that new construction will be built using the latest knowledge and strategies developed to protect our buildings from the hurricane threat. In the long term, fewer buildings will be sufficiently capable of withstanding hurricane damage thereby protecting the HHRF assets.

Thank you for allow me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (SEAOH)

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1154
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS
REDUCTION PLAN

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

JONATHAN MURAI
President, SEAOH

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Jonathan Murai, President of the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1154.

The SEAOH supports measures that facilitate the timely adoption of the most recent international building codes with Hawaii specific amendments through the process which initiates at the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Members of the SEAOH helped to draft this bill because we recognize that updating the State Building Code will have the primary effect of improving the resilience of the economy in Hawaii from the hurricane threat and indeed it will protect the assets of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

Structural engineers protect citizens and visitors in the state of Hawaii by designing our buildings and infrastructure to be strong and durable. Our primary tool to perform this task is the building code. The most recent international building codes provide a model for local adoption which includes all the lessons learned through the tragedy of others who suffer from disasters such as hurricane, earthquake, tsunami and other threats we face here in Hawaii.

The State Building Code is based on the International Building Code (IBC) which is updated every three years. When the IBC is updated, it incorporates all of the latest knowledge gained from researchers and engineers from around the world who observe the way buildings and structures have failed during recent hurricanes. The updates also provide guidance on how to design structures using the latest construction techniques which can be more economical and efficient than older construction technologies. The state is currently three iterations behind in updating and adopting the international

code standards. By the end of FY 2017-2018 the state will be four iterations behind if the state fails to fund the Hawaii Administrative Rule making process to update the State Building Code. We are on the verge of being last in the nation with a building code based on the 2006 international building code.

SB 1154 proposes that the HHRF sponsor the updates/implementation of the Hawaii state and county building code hurricane standards by the SBCC on a consistent recurring basis – once every three years. This bill provides a mechanism by which the HHRF could choose to assist the SBCC update the state building code. The SBCC code adoption process is the mechanism which will implement the hurricane hazard mitigation plans established by the HHRF. So in future code cycles, when the SBCC and HHRF see that changes in nationally recognized codes/standards will help Hawaii to better mitigate the hurricane threat they can work together for the timely adoption of a new State Building Code.

Full funding of the SBCC has not been forthcoming from the state since its inception in 2007. SEAOH knows that the SBCC has been searching for a creative, and appropriate, way to fund updating the state building code which is used by both private and public entities when they are planning a construction project. When this bill is implemented the result will mean that new construction will be built using the latest knowledge and strategies developed to protect our building stock from the hurricane threat. In the long run, fewer buildings will sustain hurricane damage thereby also protecting the HHRF assets.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB 1154.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1154.

I am a volunteer on the State Building Code Council (SBCC) participating on the Investigative Committee for the Green Code. Through my volunteering, I have developed a great appreciation for the dedication of the appointed members of the Council. These professionals volunteer their time and take their mission to harmonize the building code very seriously. As an architect, I appreciate their thorough evaluation and inclusion of community input. I am also impressed by the participation of the heads of the various building departments to standardize the code between counties. This effort minimizes conflicts and makes it much easier to perform my design duties in each jurisdiction.

What I find troubling is that although there is a law requirement for the SBCC to perform these duties, there has not been matching funding to perform these duties. I have also seen bills in this session that add additional responsibilities to the SBCC with no mention of funding. Much of the council discussion as of late has been figuring out a strategy for survival due to lack of funding which takes the attention from the primary responsibility to vet the code.

While this bill does not solve all of the funding requirements for the SBCC and provides only a stop-gap to allow completion of the current code update, I believe the funding mechanism provides a win-win situation where the SBCC is funded to complete its immediate mandate providing time for the legislature to pass the requisite permanent funding for this mandated task.

Respectfully submitted,

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