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January 30, 2017

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 634 Relating to the State Building Codes

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 and the KFD offer the following comments on SB 634, 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.

Please contact me at (808) 241-4975 or rwesterman@kauai.gov should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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January 31, 2017

TO: HONORABLE CLARENCE NISHIHARA, CHAIR, HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO S.B. 634 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: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Room 229

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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.

S.B. 634, 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.



Wai Maoli

HAWAII FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

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Fresh Water Council Members

William Aila

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Keith Okamoto

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Monty Richards

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David Taylor

Dennis Teranishi

Barry Usagawa

*US Geological Survey
Liaison/Scientific Advisor to HCF

**Testimony of the
Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative
on
S.B. 634
Relating to Water Conservation
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Conference Room 229**

The Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports H.B. 634, 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).

S.B. 634 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.
- S.B. 634 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.

S.B. 634 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 S.B. 634 and urge its passage.