

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HB 1435, HD2
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 (PSM)

BY

VERN T. MIYAGI
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

Chair Nishihara and Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members.

Aloha - I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT OF THE INTENT of House Bill 1435 HD2, but subject to the comments on section 5 noted below.**

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 volunteer 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.

Emergency Management Concerns:

- Updated state building codes, that incorporate lessons learned from actual disaster events, are critical in saving lives, protecting infrastructure, and expediting recovery for future disasters. **From emergency preparedness and community resilience aspects - three iterations behind is unacceptable.**

- 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, like 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 significant mitigation measures for this purpose.**

Comments:

The intent of HB 1435 is to establish a **recurring systematic process** to update the hurricane related standards of the state building code through the administrative rules process. Section 5 of HD2 limits the act to only one year, ending on June 30, 2018. **This amendment defeats the original intent of HB 1435.**

As a note, a separate bill, HB 1436, HD2 is proposing a one-time update of the state building code using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Reimbursement Grant funds received in November 2016. If HB 1436, HD 2 passes, and the one-time update occurs, then HB 1435 would commence recurring updates of the hurricane related standards thereafter.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT of the intent of HB 1435 HD2, but subject to the comments above.**

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

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, March 21, 2017
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1435, HD 2 - 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 and I serve as Chair of the Board of the Directors of the
Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (“HHRF”).

I support the intent of strengthening the hurricane–related building codes and provide the
following comments.

This bill proposes that the HHRF sponsor the development and implementation of state
building code hurricane standards for new residential and commercial structures and
separate hurricane standards for existing residential and commercial structures. This bill
also includes 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 resources to support updating the hurricane protection
portions of the State Building Code by the State Building Code Council.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHINO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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March 20, 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: House Bill (HB) 1435, House Draft (HD) 2 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 HB 1435, HD 2, 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.

This bill supports the State Building Code Council (SBCC) in reviewing and adopting amendments to 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 and the International Building Code (IBC) have been completed, but lack of funding to facilitate the administrative rules has stalled the process. Amendments to the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) is currently being updated. 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.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Page 2
March 20, 2017

Funding from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund will enable the SBCC to adopt the 2012 IBC and the IRC, two fundamental codes. It is suggested that Section 5 stated in the bill regarding the sunset date of June 30, 2018, be removed, as this is a recurring process.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of HB 1435, HD 2, for the safety and general welfare of all our citizens.

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

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Wallace G. Rezendes, Jr.
Managing Director

Kilipaki K. F. Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

March 20, 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 Nishihira:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1435, House Draft (HD) 2 Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Comprehensive Loss Reduction Plan

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 support HB 1435, HD 2, 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.

This bill supports the State Building Code Council (SBCC) in reviewing and adopting amendments to 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 and the International Building Code (IBC) have been completed, but lack of funding to facilitate the administrative rules has stalled the process. Amendments to the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) is currently being updated. 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.

Funding from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund will enable the SBCC to adopt the 2012 IBC and the IRC, two fundamental codes. It is suggested that Section 5 stated in the bill regarding the sunset date of June 30, 2018, be removed, as this is a recurring process.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

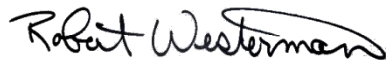
Page 2

March 20, 2017

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's passage of HB 1435, HD 2, for the safety and general welfare of all our citizens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends under the word "Westerman".

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/dag

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 20, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs

Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 1435, HD2 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE
RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN**

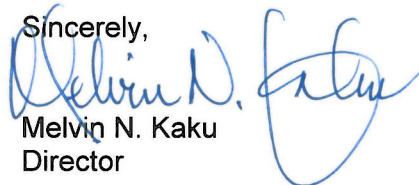
I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City).

DEM strongly supports H.B. 1435, HD2 with an amendment, but disagrees with section 5. The original intent of HB 1435 was to establish a recurring systematic process to update the hurricane related standards of the State Building Code through the administrative rules process. As currently written, Section 5 of H.B. 1435 HD2 limits the Act to only one year, ending on June 30, 2018. Section 5 of this amendment defeats the original intent of HB 1435. As a note, a separate bill, HB 1436, HD2 is proposing a one-time update of the state building code using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Reimbursement Grant funds received in November 2016. If HB 1436, HD 2 passes, and the one-time update occurs, then HB 1435 would commence recurring updates of the hurricane related standards thereafter.

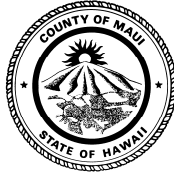
The updating of the State Building Code to IBC standards ensures that the State of Hawaii, the City, Kauai County, Maui County, and Hawaii County are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funds to repair, replace, or construct facilities that were damaged or destroyed during a Presidentially-Declared Disaster.

I urge your committee to amend HB 1435, HD2 to reflect my comments above. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director

ALAN M ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY MURRAY
FIRE CHIEF

ROBERT SHIMADA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
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March 20, 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: House Bill (HB) 1435, House Draft (HD) 2 Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Comprehensive Loss Reduction Plan

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support HB 1435, HD 2, 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.

This bill supports the State Building Code Council (SBCC) in reviewing and adopting amendments to 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 and the International Building Code (IBC) have been completed, but lack of funding to facilitate the administrative rules has stalled the process. Amendments to the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) is currently being updated. 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.

Funding from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund will enable the SBCC to adopt the 2012 IBC and the IRC, two fundamental codes. It is suggested that Section 5 stated in the bill regarding the sunset date of June 30, 2018, be removed, as this is a recurring process.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Page 2
March 20, 2017

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's passage of HB 1435, HD 2, for the safety and general welfare of all our citizens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Hawaii

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March 17, 2017

**Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 21, 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 HB 1435, 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



March 21, 2017

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
IN SUPPORT of H.B. 1435 HD2 (HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND)**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC and chair of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. We respectfully are submitting this testimony in support of HB 1435 HD2 which proposes to clarify that the comprehensive loss reduction plan of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund shall include implementing building code requirements for hurricane standards in accordance with state building code and design standards.

The structures where people live and work must be safe. It is for this reason that building codes exist, to provide a means to safeguard life and protect the private and public welfare through regulating the design, construction practices, construction material quality, occupancy and maintenance of buildings and structures. Evaluating and updating Hawaii's building codes as necessary will help to address many of Hawaii's most important concerns, including public safety and health, and environmental protection.

In large part, building codes establish a building's quality, safety and energy performance for years to come, because initial design and construction decisions determine operational and maintenance costs for the life of the building. Building equipment and other components may be replaceable and upgradeable, but many aspects of building performance are "designed in" at the beginning, and are too expensive and difficult to change. Foundations and other parts of the building envelope are typically in place for 50 years or more.

Building codes and design and construction decisions affect us every day, and the established of updated minimum requirements for building design, construction and operation to protect public health, safety and the natural resources that sustain us, help us "build it right" at the beginning when it matters most. Building codes can now offer enhanced protection against the threats of natural disasters and terrorism to make our communities more resilient, sustainable and livable for generations to come, which lowers the price of mitigation for building owners.

Regularly upgrading our State Building Codes ensure new products and practices make their way into buildings when the time is right and are no longer experimental. The code development process assesses the technology landscape and consumer demand, and creates an appropriately suited code that can apply innovations gradually across the building sector, reducing the risk for individual builders and contractors. The industry standard and process of updating building codes every three years is optimal to ensure new technologies, materials and methods, as well as better approaches to health and safety, can be incorporated into the next generation of buildings with sufficient time for proof of performance.

Regular, incremental improvements help us continue to build better, and smarter, buildings as cost effectively as possible. Waiting longer between code updates means many buildings are not current when built. Updated building codes significantly benefit the communities that use them. Ultimately, jurisdictions enforcing current building codes demonstrate they are forward thinking and open to change that helps improve lives. Likewise, jurisdictions choosing to lag behind current safety and energy codes demonstrate stubbornness less attractive to newcomers and those who invest in the most desirable types of economic development opportunities.

Updated building codes produce a more valuable building should benefit builders in addition to owners. On the residential side, the relatively small percentage increase in construction costs for homes built under updated building codes is more than offset by improved quality and safety. Likewise, a home costing less to own and operate should produce a higher return at sale and resale.

This committee and our state and local policymakers may also want to consider:

- Cost to public safety and health from design flaws or improper installation
- Unnecessary cost to home owners, businesses and taxpayers from buildings wasting energy and water
- Training on design and construction practices for achieving higher quality and better performing buildings meeting or exceeding code requirements at little or no additional cost to builders
- Savings to homeowners when disaster hits if homes are resilient and meet current flood-protection requirements, seismic design standards and wind-bracing requirements.

Well-structured and updated building codes ensure consistency among jurisdictions, while permitting the state and county authorities to make adjustments based on specific conditions

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen

Managing Partner/Principal

(chair – Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management)

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (SEAOH)

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1435
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** House Bill 1435 HD2 **with the following comments.**

The current version HB 1435 HD2 defeats the intent of the original bill which established a recurring systematic process to update the hurricane related standards of the state building code through the administrative rule process.

We suggest that the following modifications be made:

- Section 5 be revised to **remove the sunset date of June 30, 2018.**
- Section 3 be revised. The state building code council (SBCC) already provides an annual report to the legislature as required by HRS 107-30. In that annual report the SBCC could summarize what, if any, HHRF funds were used during the prior year and if the SBCC plans to ask the HHRF for funds during the next year.

If passage of this bill is contingent on there being a sunset date, we would suggest the sunset date be June 30, 2022 (5 years from its enactment). The reason is that the national hurricane standards are updated at most once every three years and at this time there is another bill HB 1436 which proposes a one-time update to the state building code using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding received in November 2016. If HB 1436 passes and the funds are released, the hurricane related standards will be updated in the following year to be consistent with the 2012 International Building Code (IBC). The 2015 IBC does not contain significant updates of the hurricane related standard which means the SBCC would not ask HHRF to provide funds. The 2018 IBC, has already been approved by the International Code Council and does contain significant updates to the hurricane related standards. The SBCC will need time to review the updated standards, make appropriate amendments to reflect the unique conditions

in Hawaii before it can proceed with the Hawaii Administrative rule making process. It may be that 2019 or 2020 is the first time the HHRF is asked to provide funds to update the hurricane related standards. Once the hurricane standards are updated, the SBCC could then provide the legislature their annual report including a summary of all HHRF funds used to update the hurricane related standards prior to the sunset date taking effect at which time the SBCC and HHRF and other interested parties would approach the legislature to extend or permanently remove the sunset.

The remaining testimony was provided based on the original form of HB 1435 and we again provide it as additional background for your consideration.

The SEAHOH 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 SEAHOH 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.


HB 1435 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 HB 1435 with recommendations to ensure it accomplishes its original intent as introduced.**



 | 808-733-7060
 | 808-737-4977

 | 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: H.B. 1435, H.D.2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF
FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN**

HEARING: Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Director of Government Affairs, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 9,200 members. HAR **provides comments** on House Bill 1435, which clarifies that the comprehensive loss reduction plan of the HHRF shall include implementing building code requirements for hurricane standards in accordance with state building code and design standards.

While update the building code is important, the question is not if a hurricane will hit, but when. HAR believes that the use of the HHRF should be to ensure that hurricane insurance can be provided, in a timely fashion, to Hawaii's homeowners should a hurricane hit.

If the Committee is inclined to pass this measure, we respectfully request that the amount of funding be including into the measure and period of the said funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

