



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

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3006 SD1, RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 3006.

LATE

The proponents of this bill have not contacted, nor coordinated, this bill with the State Building Code Council (SBCC). The State Building Code Council (SBCC) recently became aware of this bill and discussed it during the monthly public meeting held on February 20, 2018. In short, the bill proposes modifying HRS 107-25 by adding, “*State projects may be designed and constructed using a code that is the most cost effective for a state project, including the use of an alternative code*” with the goal for the alternative code being more cost effective than the model codes listed in HRS107-25 without impacting project performance or public safety and health provided that the alternative code is approved and adopted by the council.

The SBCC offers the following comments for your consideration:

- Prior to the establishment of the SBCC there were only a few years in the history of the State for which all four counties were working from the same building code. This was a problem because the design and construction industry had to keep track of up to four different sets of requirements. As federal requirements to be eligible for FEMA disaster relief grants and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are tightened it has become more critical that the State keep up to date with the latest nationally recognized building codes.

Resources are needed to consider, amend and adopt another entire set of codes.

- The SBCC was originally setup to facilitate the evaluation and adoption of recent nationally recognized building codes such that all four counties could pool resources and work together to adopt modern, nationally recognized model building codes.
- The SBCC helps to leverage resources from all four counties, state agencies as well as the design and construction industry to adopt a set of nationally recognized codes listed in HRS107-25.
- National model codes, upon which the State Building Codes are based, are currently published on a three-year cycle. The time required of the volunteer members of the SBCC to amend and adopt a single set of codes is already a challenge. The SBCC is not resourced to be able to evaluate more than one set of codes during each three-year code cycle.

Only the Counties issue building permits

- It has been the practice for state funded construction projects to obtain a building permit through the county permitting process. The plan reviewers are trained and know the building codes which have been adopted through their county ordinance. **If wholly different alternative codes were utilized for state projects, what resources would be available to evaluate if the planned construction adequately addresses the provisions of the alternative building codes?**

The goals of the proponents can already be reached

- The expressed goal of the bill is the exact reason national model codes are updated every three years; because over time, “*new technologies, improved materials and methods, and better approaches to public health and safety to meet the needs of communities*” become available through experiences gained during natural disasters, and through construction innovation. If codes weren’t updated, we could not use new more cost-effective technologies and our buildings would never become more resilient to disasters.
- In Hawaii, the SBCC is the venue for any member of the public, or State agency, to propose amendments to the State Building Codes. **During each code cycle, the SBCC adopts amendments to address issues which are unique to Hawaii and are not adequately addressed in the national model codes.** The SBCC encourages the public to participate and offers that chance at the beginning of every meeting it conducts.
- Each amendment is evaluated by the volunteer technical experts on the council who consider both the technical aspects of the amendments with respect to safety, while also considering any cost impacts. Each of the proposed State Building Codes is sent to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB) which requires a small business impact statement which in part speaks to associated costs.
- **Each code that the SBCC has adopted already contains alternate means and methods provisions which allow an owner (or their design professional) to ask the building official to consider items which are not already in the building code.** The building official can evaluate the information / justification provided by the owner and either approve or reject the proposed alternative means or method.

If there are specific code change proposals that can help Hawaii to address it’s affordable housing needs and will also ensure public health and safety the SBCC looks forward to hearing these proposals at any future SBCC meeting. More information regarding activities of the SBCC can be found at <http://ags.hawaii.gov/bcc/>

Sincerely,

GAUR JOHNSON
Chair, State Building Code Council
state.bcc@hawaii.gov

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3006 SD1
RELATING TO BUILDING CODES**

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS
by

LATE

BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES KAOIWI
Interim Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee.

SB 3006 SD1 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes sec. 107-25 to provide that State projects shall be designed and constructed using a code that is the most cost effective, including the use of an alternative code, which does not negatively affect the performance of the project or public safety and health. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) submits the following comments on this proposal:

- Under current law, the Hawaii State Building Code Council carefully evaluates the most current versions of the national model building codes for public safety and health concerns as well as cost effectiveness before adopting as state code and recommending to the Counties for adoption.
- The International Code Council (ICC) develops the model codes that are used as base code standards by most jurisdictions in the United States.
- The model codes are intended to protect public health and safety while avoiding both unnecessary costs and preferential treatment of specific materials or methods of construction.
- Consequently, the Hawaii state building codes under the current law already consider the concerns addressed in SB 3006 SD1. While HI-EMA supports building codes that support and protect the health and safety of all Hawaii residents, alternative building codes are neither necessary or desired. Any provision in another code that can be potentially cost effective and safe can be added as an amendment via existing processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 3006 SD1

Moses Kaiwi; moses.kaoiwi@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



LIUNA!

LATE

**TESTIMONY OF RYAN K. KOBAYASHI
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR
HAWAII LABORERS UNION LOCAL 368**

PETER A. GANABAN
*Business Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer*

ALFONSO OLIVER
President

JOBY NORTH II
Vice President

TONI FIGUEROA
Recording Secretary

JAMES DRUMGOLD JR.
Executive Board

ORLANDO PAESTE
Executive Board

JOSEPH YAW
Executive Board

MARTIN ARANAYDO
Auditor

RUSSELL NAPIHA'A
Auditor

MARK TRAVALINO
Auditor

ALFRED HUFANA JR.
Sergeant-At-Arms

COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3006 RELATING TO BUILDING
CODES**

ALOHA COMMITTEE CHAIR DELA CRUZ, VICE-CHAIR WAKAI, VICE-
CHAIR KEITH-AGARAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

My name is Ryan K. Kobayashi, Government and Community Relations Director for the Hawaii Laborers Union Local 368. The Hawaii Laborers Union is made up of over 5000 working and retired members across the State of Hawaii, and we **SUPPORT SB 3006 Relating to Building Codes.**

In light of the high cost of building in Hawaii in both the private and public sectors, we support SB 3006 as it would help to lower the building costs for the State of Hawaii ultimately saving hard earned taxpayer dollars for future State (publicly) owned new construction projects as well as complete renovation projects.

With several future State projects ranging from the construction of new schools, the relocation of Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC), Mayor Wright Housing Redevelopment, and other State planned Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along the proposed Rail line, the State has the potential of realizing a cost savings of up to 50% in certain areas of construction alone.

LIUNA Local 368
1617 Palama Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 841-5877
Fax: (808) 847-7829
www.local368.org

Feel the Power

We feel that SB 3006 is an important step in attempting to keep the construction of new publicly owned projects in the State of Hawaii affordable for both the State and the Taxpayer. Therefore, the Hawaii Laborers' Union and its over 5000 members **SUPPORTS SB 3006.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-3006-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:01:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Hashimoto	Testifying for CCPI Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments: