



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **Nani Medeiros**
Chief Housing Officer, Office of the Governor

Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
2:10 p.m., Via Video Conference
Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 & House Resolution No. 43

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
STATE BUILDING CODE**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 39 & House Resolution 43.

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

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March 29, 2023

Testimony To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: HCR 39/HR 43 - REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXISTING
PROCEDURES OF THE HAWAII BUILDING CODE ADOPTION PROCESS.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL AND AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
2:10 PM**

MARCH 29, 2023

RE: HCR 39 - RESOLUTION CONVENING TASK FORCE ON BUILDING CODE PROCESS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee:

My name is Max Lindsey, 2023 Government Relations Committee Chair 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. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is in strong support of HCR 39. This resolution is requesting the Governor to convene a task force to examine and make recommendations on the existing procedures for the adoption of the State Building Code.

This resolution would convene a task force to analyze the current building code process. Streamlining this often cumbersome process would help the building industry more efficiently and consistently build housing. Currently, the building code goes through numerous changes regularly, causing confusion, delays, and constant added cost. The current State Building Code Council does not take into consideration the cost implications of adopting new codes. Nationally, many of the new codes have mandates built-in that manufacturers and special interest groups have embedded into new code revisions. Certain mandates are not intended to protect the public health or safety, and ultimately increase the cost of housing. We are looking forward to participating in a true task force that will fully examine the building code adoption process and its effect on housing prices in Hawaii.

The state of Hawaii is in a dire housing crisis. As the Legislature is aware, the cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, with Oahu's median price of homes being currently over \$1 million. Approximately 153,967 U.S. households are priced out of buying a home for every \$1000 increase in price, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). We are in support of legislation that would allow for the building of much-needed housing at every price point in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of this measure.

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HCR-39

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:37:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Thielen	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Greg Thielen, I am an affordable housing developer and volunteer chair of the BIA Hawaii Codes Committee. I am in support of HCR39 and will be available for any questions from the committee.

HCR-39

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 5:47:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Resolution.

HCR-39

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 12:46:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Bath	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the adoption of the task force. Building codes are often excessive. These excesses can cause economic hardship to homeowners and those striving to own a home in Hawaii.

Some codes actually do NOT support smaller footprints supporting climate change mitigation.

mahalo for your consideration

Stephanie Bath

Kurtistown

Puna District, Hawaii Island

HCR-39

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:09:52 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lourdes Scheibert	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a little confused on the use of this study. The Hawaii State Code [hawaii-permit-building-code-and-licensing-information](#) on January 10, 2023, The state of Hawaii passed a rule that as of July 2018, the state had to adopt the most recent edition of the model codes, including the NEC, within one year of publication. The four Hawaii counties — Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii – Big Island — have two years in which to adopt locally. The system is in place.

My concern is line item page 2 line 26) Consider whether county building codes should be eliminated in favor of a single statewide building code; and. The State delegates to the Counties as written in the link above.

This committee should consider to add more positions at DPP for plan reviewers and inspectors to speed up the process of the impending construction increase.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Scheibert

HCR-39

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:03:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In long-time need of bldg code updates to protect HOA's and multiple unit dwellings.