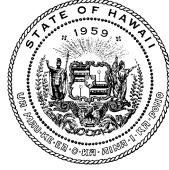


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
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DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
BY
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICS SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

MARCH 29, 2022, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

IN CONSIDERATION OF
S.C.R. No. 163/S.R. No. 155
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PROGRAM
DIRECTOR POSITION, ONE FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBER POSITION, AND COSTS
NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
OFFICE.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee:

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 163 and S.R. No. 155, requesting DAGS to fund the establishment of one full-time equivalent program director position, one full-time staff member position, and costs necessary to establish a full-time state building code council office, and offers the following comments.

DAGS notes that Article VII, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i provides that no public money shall be expended except pursuant to appropriations made by law. DAGS does not have the authorized position counts or appropriated funds for the establishment of the State Building Code Council Office staffed by a full-time equivalent program director position and one full-time staff member position, with related operating costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

- March 28, 2022

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support – SCR 163 Requesting Funding to Establish a Full-time State Building Code Council Office
Hearing: March 29, 2022 at 1:00 P.M., State Capitol, Senate Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Stanford Carr Development submits testimony in **support** of SCR 163 requesting funding to establish a full-time State's Building Code Council (Council) office.

The Council was created by Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 with authority to appoint an Executive Director and Executive Assistant. To date the Council struggles with limited funding and insufficient staff necessary to implement its purpose – to adopt a uniform set of building codes. In addition, staff with industry expertise is required to evaluate the cost impacts of code revisions.

Under the current structure, code amendments are adopted without cost benefit analysis, resulting in an overall increase in the cost of construction with diminishing and *de minimis* improvements to life and safety. It is often the case that the authors of the International Building Code (IBC) or International Residential Code (IRC) purport changes as non-negotiable and critical life and safety improvements for which they cite materially different areas of the country or world as valid case studies.

For example, the 2012 IBC required the installation of an on-site secondary source of water for fire suppression in the event of a seismic event of such a scale so as to fracture the municipal connection. While the 2018 version of the IBC removed the requirement, the Council should not have adopted that section because Hawaii does not suffer the seismic activity to cause such a secondary source of water even to be used. Lacking a dedicated staff to analyze the proposed changes to Codes, and by extension, lacking the cost-benefit analysis itself, results time and time again in increased costs of housing and little to no improvement on quality of life. Yes, a secondary source of water for fire suppression would function in the crisis of a fractured water supply line to a building; but the likelihood of such a scenario in Hawaii is close to zero while the cost to implement would be millions.

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
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To be clear, we adamantly support changes to the code which result in the improved likelihood of survival in a crisis. But, it's important for the State to make such improvements with their respective costs alongside.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanford S. Carr', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Stanford S. Carr