

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
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KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1033 HD1
RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

MARCH 30, 2023

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

I am MG Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1033 HD1.

Adding a HI-EMA representative on the State Building Code Council (SBCC) would provide that body with expertise on how to update building codes to make Hawaii more resilient to future disasters and hazards and competitive in securing federal mitigation grants. Additionally, SBCC's mission aligns with many HI-EMA functions, including reviewing, implementing, and addressing hazard mitigation strategies for many of the hazards the State faces, such as hurricanes, floods, winds, tsunamis, earthquakes, and landslides.

Federal Emergency Management Agency grant monies are available to help communities with mitigation projects to reduce risks from natural and human-caused hazards and threats. However, Hawai'i has not been able to successfully compete for and obtain those funds, in large part as a result of the significant obstacle of the State's building code. The State's code allows considerable variation from county to county. None of Hawai'i's counties meet the most current national standards, nor is Hawai'i rated by a designated national group as having a high commitment to building code enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your support of this bill.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 31, 2023
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 1033, HD1

RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1033, HD1, which adds to the State Building Code Council (SBCC) one member who represents the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

The expertise provided by a representative of HI-EMA would add a valuable and important perspective. Also, the addition of HI-EMA to the council could assist the State in obtaining disaster mitigation funding, possibly including funding to support the timely adoption of building codes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency uses timely code adoption as a criterion in its funding for disaster mitigation, resilience, and recovery projects.

The SBCC was established in 2007 by Act 82 and codified as Part II, *State Building Code and Design Standards*, in Chapter 107 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). HRS 107-23 reads in part, "The council shall appoint... an executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the council, and who shall have administrative abilities and experience with the building industry. The council shall also appoint... an executive assistant, who shall have experience in statutory and administrative

rulemaking..." However, repeated attempts to secure funding for these positions or to support the work of the SBCC have not been successful.

HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1033 HD1
RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **WAYS AND MEANS**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 30, 2023

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1033 HD1.

Hawai'i has been unable to successfully compete for certain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds that are available to help communities with mitigation projects to reduce risks from hazards and threats.

This is due in large part to the significant obstacle posed by the State's building code, which allows considerable variation from county to county. None of Hawaii's counties meets the most current standards. Hawai'i also is not rated -- by any national group that has been designated by FEMA to conduct such assessments -- as having a high commitment to building code enforcement.

Adding a HI-EMA representative on the State Building Code Council (SBCC) would provide that body with expertise on how to update building codes to make Hawaii more competitive in securing federal mitigation grants, as well as more resilient to future disasters and hazards. In addition, SBCC's mission aligns with many HI-EMA functions, including reviewing, implementing, and addressing hazard mitigation strategies for many of the hazards the State faces: hurricanes, floods, winds, tsunami, earthquakes, and landslides.

We support this bill and respectfully request that the committee support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



LATE

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
State Capitol, Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
3:00 PM**

MARCH 15, 2023

RE: HB 1033 - RELATING TO STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran, 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 offers the following comments on HB 1033, Relating to State Building Code Council.

This bill adds to the state building code council a voting member representing the Hawai'i emergency management agency.

While we are in full support of there being a representative from HiEMA as a voting member on the State Building Code Council (SBCC), we have concerns about the makeup of the SBCC as a whole. There is very little representation of the building industry on the SBCC, and as a result, the SBCC 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. These mandates are not intended to protect the public health or safety, and ultimately increase the cost of housing.

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 concerns.

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