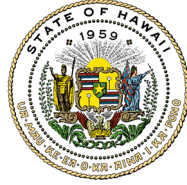


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
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
RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

BY

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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.

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. 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: hurricanes, floods, winds, tsunami, 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 standards, nor is Hawai'i rated by a designated national group as having a high commitment to building code enforcement.

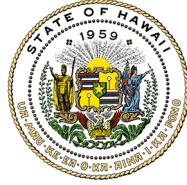
We ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

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

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
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STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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.

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, tsunamis, 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



February 21, 2023

TO: Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Reid Mizue, AIA
President / Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

SUBJECT: **Re: House Bill 1033**
Relating to State Building Code Council

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hawaii State Council
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

T (808) 628-7243
contact@aiahonolulu.org
aiahonolulu.org/AIAHawaiiStateCouncil

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama
and Members of the Committee,

My name is Reid Mizue, President AIA Hawaii Council providing **COMMENTS** on House Bill 1033; proposing to add HI-EMA Hawaii Emergency Management as voting member:

- Private sector of Hawaii's construction industry has expressed concerns to AIA that SBCC voting membership is over-dominated by government agencies. While we understand the bill's intent, its passage will create "super majority" of voting members from government agencies. HB 1033 will increase animosity toward SBCC from some private sectors.
- This governor's bill adding voting member would be better received if it included modest funding for SBCC administrative purpose. When AIA was instrumental in passing original legislation, SBCC was to be funded on interest earned by Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. This has never happened.
- Instead SBCC has to really struggle to fulfill its important consumer protection role using volunteer time from private sector, such as architects and structural engineers. AIA members volunteer time despite SBCC detractors constantly introducing bills every session intent on hampering code amendment work; while the DAGS provides minimal support because there is no funding.

- This session you have moved bills to create county-based amendments to International Residential Code IRC. These bills that are totally unnecessary because counties are already allowed to amend state building codes. AIA believes that there should be code uniformity across the state for design and construction efficiency.

HI-EMA has provided past support for SBCC and its mission is aligned with SBCC as climate change-induced conditions impact Hawaii's built environment. We strongly encourage the Governor to include some administrative funding when considering planning for State Building Code Council. Or even administratively attach it to HI-EMA.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** on current language of House Bill 1033.

Sincerely,
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council