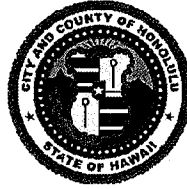


DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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February 6, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

**Subject: Senate Bill No. 862
Relating to the Counties**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on Senate Bill No. 862, which would require each county agency responsible for enforcing its respective building code to be accredited by the International Accreditation Service.

We understand the intent of this Bill, which is to “ensure that (county) buildings meet the best and most currently accepted standards.”

The City already meets these standards by adopting the updated version of the International Building Code/Residential Code as part of the City’s regular code update. Our review of permit applications, therefore, are based on the latest health and safety standards of the International Building Code. The counties also are allowed to adapt standards that may be unique to each county into our respective codes.

Our concern is that by requiring that the counties go through the accreditation process, staff time and resources that are already limited will be taken up to see the process through. This Bill also does not appropriate funds for the accreditation, which is necessary in order to implement the requirement. In balance, we don’t believe that accreditation will provide benefits that justify the costs.

The DPP is in the process of a major overhaul of our permit issuance process, as well as our enforcement of codes and laws. We fear that recommendations that come with an accreditation will lack applicable standards for local use and interfere with our efforts to modernize our permitting processes.

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety
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While the intent is to have the counties be as current as possible with the latest codes, we believe we already are meeting these standards and this bill is therefore unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



for

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director