

# ***SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii***

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March 31, 2023

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: SCR 91/SR 84 - 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.

Chair Wakai 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

We are in support of these Resolutions.

This Resolution is a result of bills being considered by this Legislature which would have changed the adoption process, in our minds, in an inefficient and confusing way.

One of the reasons the Statewide Building Code Council exists is to provide some level of uniformity between the various counties and the building code provisions. That is desirable. The negative to that is that there may be some situations that don't fit all counties, so it is a logical conclusion then that there must be a process to allow the counties to consider the various code changes and to provide for exceptions to those changes when necessary. That needs to be an efficient and timely process.

It is the purpose of these Resolutions to examine and identify a more expedient way in order to handle these kinds of situations and to that extent we fully endorse it and would be happy to serve on the Task Force.

Based on the above, we recommend passage of these Resolutions.

Thank you.



**Testimony to  
The Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

**Friday, March 31, 2023**

**3:01 PM**

**Conference Room 225 & VIA videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol**

**SCR 91/SR 84/HCR 39**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports SCR 91/ SR 84**, 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.

Hawaii's building code is essential to the state's ongoing growth and development, and the building industry is essential to the successful execution of that code. Under the current structure, that industry has very little input in that process, resulting in situations that don't always reflect the best practices of the industry. This proposal corrects that, allowing the building industry to be part of that process.

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from low-carbon to negative-carbon emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Despite representing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii's atmosphere, we are working to conscientiously reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing cost-effective, local, renewable energy projects.

We urge the committee to pass SCR 91, SR 84.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**State Capitol, Room 225**  
**415 South Beretania Street**  
**3:01 PM**

**MARCH 31, 2023**

RE: SCR 91 - RESOLUTION CONVENING TASK FORCE ON BUILDING CODE PROCESS

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, 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 SCR 91.** 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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**SCR-91**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:01:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/31/2023 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Thielen	Testifying for BIA Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I will be testifying on behalf of BIA Hawaii, in support of SCR91. Testimony was already submitted.