

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 14, 2023

Chair, Senator Stanley Chang
Vice Chair, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha
Committee on Housing

Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai
Vice Chair, Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Subject: H.B. 920, HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE
Hearing Date: Friday, March 17, 2023, at 3:01 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference, Conference Room 225

Aloha Chairs Chang and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Elefante and members of the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

The County of Hawai'i stands by its previous testimony in strong support of HB 920, HD1, which allows counties to amend and approve building codes for single family dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that are distinct from the Hawai'i State building codes.

We believe that HB 920, HD1 provides the flexibility necessary to address the urgent demand for reasonably priced housing in our county by eliminating unnecessary regulations that add time delays and additional costs to construction. We are confident that this adaptability will not compromise safety, and that HB 920, HD1 will encourage innovative and sustainable building practices that increase housing production on Hawai'i Island and throughout the state.

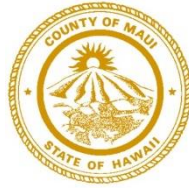
We highly encourage the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs to move this legislation forward with positive recommendations for passage in the Senate.

Mahalo,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

March 14, 2023

TO: Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Honorable Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor

DATE: March 14, 2023

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 920, HD1, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow counties to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that is distinct from the Hawai'i state building codes.

Our administration **SUPPORTS** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure provides counties with flexibility, and removes barriers created by unnecessary regulations that can delay and increase costs to affordable workforce housing projects.
2. The measure recognizes that while the Hawai'i State Building Code is based on a national standard, it does not always factor Hawai'i's unique environment, and how that may impact a counties ability to support expedited, affordable workforce housing projects.

For the foregoing reasons, we offer our **SUPPORT** of this measure.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
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County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

March 16, 2023

ZENDO KERN
Director, County of Hawai'i Planning Department

Committee on Housing &
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Friday, March 17, 2023, 3:01 P.M.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

HB 920 HD 1
Relating to the Hawai'i State Building Code

Honorable Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

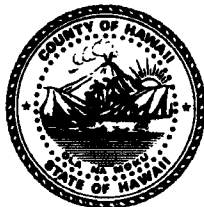
The County of Hawai'i Planning Department is grateful for the opportunity to testify on HB 920 HD1, relating to the Hawai'i State Building Code. This Bill allows counties to amend and approve building codes for single family dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that are distinct from the Hawai'i State building codes.

HB 920 HD 1 is a critical tool that will allow individual counties to effectively address the affordable housing crisis; therefore, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department strongly SUPPORTS this bill.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator

Harry M. Yada
Assistant Housing Administrator

County of Hawai'i
Office of Housing and Community Development

1990 Kino'ole Street, Suite 102 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8379 • Fax (808) 961-8685
Existing Housing: (808) 959-4642 • Fax (808) 959-9308
Kona: (808) 323-4300 • Fax (808) 323-4301

March 15, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 920 HD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Hearing Date: Friday, March 17, 2023, at 3:01 PM
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference/ Conference Room 225

Aloha Honorable Chairs Chang and Wakai and Honorable Vice Chairs Kanuha and Elefante, and Members of the HOU and PSM Committees,

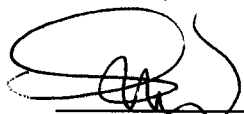
The Hawai'i County Office of Housing and Community Development **supports HB 920 HD1** which allows the counties to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that has an unspecified amount of square feet of living area and is distinct from the Hawai'i state building codes.

This bill allows counties the flexibility to address the increasing costs and time delays experienced by residential homebuilders and homeowners by eliminating unnecessary regulations.

We believe passage of this bill will make a positive impact on affordable housing production which is in critical need in all counties.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of this measure.

Mahalo,



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator



SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2938

Phone: (808) 537-5619 ✦ Fax: (808) 533-2739

March 17, 2023

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Housing
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair

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

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: H.B. 920, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE.

Chair Chang, Chair Wakai and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The Subcontractors

Association represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting associations and they are:

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL & AIRCONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

We have reservations about this bill.

We understand that the Building Code should be responsive to the needs of that particular island however it is also important for there to be some uniformity between the various county codes. Our members are already reporting great difficulty in trying to understand the differences from one county to another, mostly based on their effective date. All the counties have to eventually conform with changes to the Code however, their effective dates can vary greatly.

In order to complicate the situation, getting answers from the various county building departments is oftentimes difficult and non-binding.

While we think there can be some avenue for determining specific island needs, we also think that uniformity should be the overriding factor and based on that we think this bill needs work and it is perhaps the County adoption process that should be examined.

Thank you.



PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



March 16, 2023

Founded 1889

Senate Joint Committee on Housing and Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator(s) Stanley Chang and Glenn Wakai, Co-Chairs

Senator(s) Dru Mamo Kanuha and Brandon J.C. Elefante, Co-Vice Chairs

State Capitol, Friday, March 17, 2023 at 3:01 pm, Room 225

Re: In **OPPOSITION** to HB920 HD1 Relating To The Hawaii State Building Code

Aloha Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Joint Committee Members;

Chartered in 1919, the Plumbers and Fitters UA, Local 675 is one of the oldest organized labor unions in Hawai'i and one of three 'licensed' skilled-construction trades, steeped in a rich history as one of Hawai'i's construction-industry pioneers.

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675, **OPPOSES** HB920 HD1 which would allow the counties to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that has an unspecified amount of square feet of living area and is distinct from the Hawai'i state building codes.

Hawai'i revised statutes, chapter 107-28 already provides the governing body of each county with the authority to amend, adopt, and update Hawai'i state building codes as they apply within their respective jurisdictions. In addition, each county is provided with representation as voting members, on the State Building Code Council and is given the opportunity to recommend and adopt any such amendments to the respective State Building Codes that counties see fit, prior to further amending and adopting building codes at the local level.

Our trade is one of three licensed craft in Hawai'i whereby, in addition to the contractor who is required to hold the appropriate contractors license, individuals performing the work of a licensed craft, must be duly licensed in the craft they are performing. Our licensed members are governed by chapter 448-E which outlines the requirements to become a licensed craftsman in the plumbing industry. Accordingly, our member apprentices and journeymen are trained according to the state plumbing code as listed in section 107-25(2). Any deviation from the codes as provided in chapter 107 may create inconsistencies and confusion in not only our trade but in other licensed trades.

Building codes listed in section 107-25, notably subsection(s) (1), (2) and (4) are intended to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and should not be circumvented as this measure seeks to accomplish. Local 675 has consistently supported efforts to improve efficiencies and reduce cost of construction, but not at the expense of public health, safety, and welfare and therefore respectfully request that HB920 HD1 be held or deferred indefinitely. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully;

Valentino B. Ceria, Business Manager/Financial Secretary





**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

March 17, 2023, 3:01 PM
Room 225

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 920 HD1

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Kanuha, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **opposes HB 920**, which appears to grant the counties wide authority to adopt—without limitation—their own versions of any and all building codes for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and other non-commercial structures. This sweeping legislation can be interpreted to apply to all types of building codes, including the electrical code, plumbing code, energy conservation code, residential code, and fire protection code, among others. The bill is, at best, unnecessary, and at worst, dangerous to the public health and safety of Hawai'i residents.

There is already a mechanism within HRS § 107-28 that allows counties to amend state building codes with changes that reflect the unique circumstances on individual islands. We see no reason to further expand that authority, especially without guardrails to protect residents from changes that could backtrack on necessary health and safety updates to the code, or render county codes, as a whole, substantially less stringent than state building codes, which are vetted by the State Building Code Council through a public process.

Building codes have direct and indirect impacts on our wellbeing and quality of life. By establishing and regularly updating uniform state and county building codes, Hawai'i can ensure that building design, construction, and operation address society's most important concerns, including public health and safety, environmental protection, and consumer protection against costly monthly utility bills. After all, buildings constructed today will remain in our building stock for decades to come.

As currently drafted, HB 920 grants the counties unfettered authority to adopt county building codes that are completely "distinct" from state building codes for any "single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures" over a certain unspecified size. Worryingly, this bill contains no protection for health and safety or safeguards to prevent increased monthly energy burdens, elevated fire risk, or other concerns impacting residents who will occupy these buildings. If the flexibility the counties are seeking is more measured, that should be clarified and the language narrowed in the bill.

Please defer HB 920. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

info@blueplanetfoundation.org

126 Queen Street, Suite 204 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808-954-6161 • blueplanetfoundation.org



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE(S) ON HOUSING and PUBLIC SAFETY and INTERGOVERNMENTAL and MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING DATE: Friday, March 17, 2023
TIME: 3:01 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
Conference Room 225

RE: OPPOSITION to House Bill 920 HD1

Aloha Honorable Chair(s) Chang and Wakai , Vice Chair(s) Kanuha and Elefante respectively and Members of the Joint Committee;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) and its Business Manager and Financial Secretary, Leroy Chincio, Jr. respectfully OPPOSE HB 920 HD1 and requests that the measure be held and/or deferred indefinitely.

IBEW 1260, is comprised of nearly 3,000 hardworking union members. Our members are a diverse workforce that largely consist of highly skilled and trained individuals working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to generate and transmit electricity here in the State of Hawai'i and to ensure the reliability and availability of this precious resource.

House Bill 920 HD1 seeks to allow the counties to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that has an unspecified amount of square feet of living area and is distinct from the Hawai'i state building codes.

As an affiliate member of the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO and an organization which represents an industry that takes health, safety and welfare standards of our members and the community at-large very seriously, we stand in strong support of our brothers and sisters in opposition to HB920 HD1 which supplants minimum building and construction standards established and adopted by the Hawaii State Building Code Council and further amended, adopted, and updated by the governing bodies of each county respectively.

Codes and Standards whose primary purpose is to protect public health, safety and welfare should not be subverted for economic reasons. Building codes listed in section 107-25, whose primary intent and purpose is to protect public health, safety and welfare should not be subverted for mere economic reasons. IBEW 1260 supports efforts to conserve resources, improve efficiencies and reduce cost of construction, but not at the expense of public health, safety, and welfare.

The authority sought in HB920 HD1 already exists. Hawai'i revised statutes, chapter 107 which governs the State Building Code Council provides each county with a voting member to speak on its behalf and amend the state building codes as they are being discussed prior to its adoption. Further, section 107-28 expressly provides the governing body of each county with the authority to amend,



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

adopt, and update Hawai'i state building codes once they are adopted and as they apply within their respective jurisdictions.

A person with lesser means should not be expected to live in a home built to lower standards.

From an equity perspective and in contrast to some testimony that appears to support this measure for the construction of affordable housing, IBEW 1260 believes that the overall quality and integrity of a person's home should not be predicated and/or based upon their income or socio-economic status in life. Building codes and standards should be consistent for all income levels, with the exception of specific and justifiable deviations on case by case and county by county basis as is currently provided in law.

Building codes and standards are not the cause for delays in permitting.

We acknowledge the significance of, and support efforts to mitigate delays in the permitting process and welcome collaborative discussions with proponents of this measure to identify and propose viable solutions that will truly address these concerns.

As such, we respectfully requests that the measure be held or deferred indefinitely. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Hearing on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 3:01p.m., Conference Room 225

RE: TESTIMONY IN **STRONG OPPOSITION** OF HB920 HD1

Honorable Chairs Stanley Chang and Glenn Wakai, Vice Chairs Dru Mamo Kanuha and
Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is
comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in electrical construction, Spectrum,
telecommunications, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 **OPPOSES** this bill in its effort to potentially disregard long-established
building codes adopted by the State and its Counties. The primary purpose of the
National Electrical Code (NEC) is for the practical safeguarding of persons and property
from hazards arising from the use of electricity. The NEC has been in publication since
1897, undergoes updates every three years, and is widely accepted around the world as
the gold standard in electrical safety.

The problems with permitting efficiency and/or costs of construction should never be
placed above the life, health, and safety of the public and the workers that build in
compliance with codes that are written for that purpose.

Promoting industry safety for our members, the public, and their properties is a
cornerstone principle of the IBEW 1186. While we sympathize with and are willing to
work on proposals to deal with Hawaii's housing crisis, this is not an acceptable solution.

We ask these Committees to **defer this bill indefinitely**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



March 16, 2023

Senate Committee Housing/ Public Safety
& Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 920, HD1 Relating to the Hawaii State Building Code

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gino Soquena, Executive Director of the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council (HBCTC) which is comprised of 18 construction trade unions here in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in **OPPOSITION** to HB 920, HD1.

Counties are already able to propose amendments to the Hawaii State Building Code as each county is represented at the State Building Code Council. We have concerns that if the counties were given the ability to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that has an unspecified amount of square feet of living area and is distinct from the Hawaii state building codes, it may open the door to unintended consequences relating to public health and safety.

Any attempt to exempt or bypass the Hawaii State Building Code is something that the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council cannot support. Please consider deferring this bill and encourage all stakeholders to work together to make sure that each sides concerns are addressed.

Mahalo,

Gino Soquena, Executive Director
Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council
(808) 393-1807
gino@hbctc.org



1088 BISHOP STREET #408
HONOLULU, HI 96813
PH: (808) 597-1216

GREGG S. SERIKAKU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Via E-File

March 15, 2023

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Chairs Chang and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 920 HD1 Relating to Hawaii State Building Code

My name is Gregg Serikaku, Executive Director for the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Hawaii, and we are the State's largest association representing contractors in the plumbing, air conditioning, refrigeration, steamfitter, and fire sprinkler trades throughout Hawaii.

HB 920 HD1 seeks to allow the Counties to adopt a residential building code which is unique and distinct from the residential building code adopted by the Hawaii State Building Code Council (SBCC). While we understand the Counties' desire to have more flexibility to address Hawaii's housing needs and each County's unique character, we would like to offer the following comments:

- We feel that the current Hawaii State Building Code law already provides Counties with a high level of flexibility to amend, adopt, and update the Hawaii model residential code as they see necessary. This autonomy is outlined in the current HRS 107-28(a):
"107-28 County authority to amend and adopt the Hawaii state building codes without council approval. (a) The governing body of each county shall amend, adopt, and update the Hawaii state building codes as they apply within their respective jurisdiction, in accordance with section 46-1.5(13), without approval of the council. Each county shall amend and adopt the Hawaii state building codes and standards listed in section 107-25, as the referenced Hawaii state building codes and standards for its respective county building code ordinance, no later than two years after the adoption of the Hawaii state building codes."
- The current Hawaii State Building Code adoption process provides stakeholders an opportunity to submit crucial input regarding concerns over issues such as costs, safety, insurance, disaster funding, and local applicability, and also assists the Counties in vetting of the national codes. This code adoption review process happens with each publication of the residential code, and ensures that any statewide amendments are first reviewed and unanimously supported by each of the four County representatives. Once the County representatives and SBCC review and approve the residential code, the Counties then have an additional 2 years to make their own unique County changes.

- The current Hawaii model codes require the adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code and National Electrical Code. These two codes are recognized in both HRS 448E and HRS 444, as being essential in maintaining the health and safety of the general public, and are utilized by the State of Hawaii to license both the tradespersons and contractors who perform such work. Any proposed distinct county residential code should include language requiring compliance with these two Hawaii model codes.

In this regard, if the desire of the committees is to move this bill forward, we recommend the following amendment:

- Amend HB 920 HD1's proposed language in HRS 107-28(c) to require the Counties' compliance to the Hawaii Fire Code, Hawaii Plumbing Code and Hawaii Electrical Code by adding the following underlined language:

*“(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a county may adopt a county building code that is distinct from the Hawaii state building codes and applicable only to single-family dwellings, additional dwelling units, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that have no more than _____ square feet of **aggregate** living area; **provided that any distinct county building code shall include specific adoption of the codes listed in sections HRS 107-25(1), (2) and (4).**”*

We feel that this amendment ensures that any allowance for a unique and distinct county residential code includes compliance with the fire, plumbing and electrical codes that are necessary in protecting the public's health and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony.

Respectfully,



Gregg S. Serikaku
Executive Director



March 15, 2023

Committee: Senate Committee on Housing and Public Safety & Intergovernmental Affairs and Military Affairs
Bill Number: HB 920 HD1, Relating to the State Building Code
Hearing Date and Time: March 17, 2023 at 3:01pm
Re: HPM Building Supply with comments

Dear Chairs Chang & Wakai, Vice Chairs Kanuha & Elefante, and Committee Members:

I would like to submit this letter and comment on HB 920 HD1, Relating to the State Building Code. HPM supports the construction industry and any legislation that may reduce the cost of housing. This is important for the committee members as there is no cost or financial impact to the government with the passage of the measure and, if anything, possible cost savings to the consumer. This measure would also allow for Counties to make geographically appropriate amendments based on each County's environment.

Based on HPM's interpretation of HB 920 HD1 as proposed, the bill may:

- allow counties to amend building codes that support affordability without impacting life and safety
- allow the local government to consider jurisdiction specific and appropriate amendments to compliment the collective efforts without compromising safety.
- allow for Counties to make amendments that differ from the State model code
- provide the enabling language for the Counties to consider such amendments without violating HRS 46-1.5(13)

Concurrently, this measure does not present with:

- any obligation for the counties to enact amendments
- any modification or circumvention of the County code adoption or amendment process
- any financial impact to State or County agencies

HPM Building Supply is a 100% employee-owned company serving Hawaii's home improvement market and building industry for over 100 years since 1921. With 17 locations across Hawaii and Washington State, HPM offers various services and products, including retail stores, building supply and lumber yards, home design centers, drafting and design services, and manufacturing facilities. HPM is dedicated to enhancing homes, improving lives, and transforming communities. The company is guided by its core values of Heart, Character, and Growth, striving to provide top-quality products and build exceptional customer loyalty. HPM has earned recognition as a leader in the industry for its products, services, and commitment to its community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 920 HD1. We hope that this letter provides more insight for the committee's deliberation on this bill.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto
President & CEO





March 16, 2023

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

SUBJECT: HB 920 - HD1 Relating to Hawaii State Building Code

Chairs Chang and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (The IAPMO Group), we support efforts to improve the adoption and implementation of construction codes which provide a critical foundation to protecting the health and safety of all the citizens of Hawaii. However, we have serious concerns with HB 920 because of the potential negative impact it may have on public health.

The IAPMO Group, founded in 1926, is a standards development organization and trade association that is a critical voice for the plumbing and mechanical industry. Our membership includes contractors, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, plumbing and mechanical inspectors, and building officials. Our primary motive for action is to protect the public's health by promoting efficient and effective plumbing systems.

The resiliency of Hawaii's buildings relies on a robust ecosystem of codes and standards developed by standards organizations. Today's buildings are more resilient because of this ecosystem, and the increased involvement of stakeholders interested in improving efficiency and resiliency. At the center of this ecosystem are life safety codes, such as fire, electrical and plumbing codes. While HB 920 is designed to provide greater flexibility to jurisdictions in the codes and standards they adopt, it threatens the important gains that have been made to protect Hawaiians from electrical, fire, water, and sanitation dangers.

Communities across Hawaii and the United States are constantly being threatened with water quality challenges (e.g. lead, PFAS, etc.). Updated every 3 years, Hawaii's life safety codes (fire, electrical, & plumbing) have been important tools in ensuring that new or renovated systems do not include the dangers of the past. Additionally, each of these codes embeds the best science and innovation the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical sectors can offer to Hawaii's jurisdictions. In recent years, these life safety codes have increasingly improved the affordability of homes while at the same time improving public safety.

We recognize that it is important for jurisdictions to be able to amend construction codes to fit the wide array of construction sites and situations facing industry around the country and the world. However, it should be done in manner that ensures health and safety issues are not compromised. We encourage you

to amend HB 920 to ensure that life-safety codes (fire, electrical, and plumbing) remain intact in Hawaii State statute to ensure the continued health, protection and safety for all Hawaiians.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Nunez

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Nunez", written in a cursive style.

Executive VP, IAPMO Field Services

LATE



**SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
& MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
3:01 PM**

March 17, 2023

RE: HB 920 - RELATING TO HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE

Chairs Chang & Wakai, Vice Chairs Kanuha & 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 HB 920, Relating to the Hawaii State Building Code. This bill would allow the counties to adopt a county building code for single-family dwellings, additional dwellings, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that is distinct from the Hawai'i state building codes. Hawaii's counties and their building needs are distinct from one another. This bill would allow for the counties to adopt residential, non-commercial building codes that are better suited to their specific needs.

Hawaii is in a major housing crisis, which continues to worsen. 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 HB 920.

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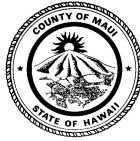
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COUNTY COUNCIL
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March 15, 2023

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 17, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 920,
HD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow county councils to adopt a county building code distinct from the State building codes and applicable only to single-family dwellings, additional dwelling units, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that have no more than a certain square footage of living area.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The measure will provide more flexibility to counties to customize regulations for their unique local character. It will allow our County the ability to more easily explore policies that will help increase our housing inventory.
2. This measure will help the County of Maui fulfill the following General Plan policy: "Require the incorporation of locally appropriate energy-saving and green building design concepts in all new developments by providing energy-sufficient urban design guidelines and amendments to the Building Code."

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.