
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is an ongoing
2 housing crisis in Hawaii. In 2019, a study commissioned by the
3 department of business, economic development, and tourism found
4 that the State will require an additional 50,156 homes by the
5 year 2025. However, over the past five years the State has been
6 producing housing at roughly half the rate required to support
7 the State's population. This dire shortage of housing has been
8 a primary contributor to Hawaii having the highest housing
9 prices in the nation.

10 The legislature recognizes that delays in the issuance of
11 building permits for single-family and multi-family housing
12 projects is one of the largest obstacles to the development and
13 construction of new housing in Hawaii. An April 2022 study
14 prepared by the university of Hawaii Economic Research Office
15 found that Hawaii has the most regulated housing market in the
16 country. According to the study, homebuilders in Hawaii "wait
17 three times longer for permits, on average, than those in other



1 states, which drives up costs significantly, creating
2 uncertainty and serving as a disincentive to build new
3 projects".

4 The extended wait times are partially due to the State's
5 complicated regulatory structure, partially due to the thorough
6 county review process, and partially due to staff shortages
7 throughout county planning, public works, and water departments.
8 In Hawaii, counties assume responsibility during the plan review
9 process to ensure that a design meets all applicable county
10 codes. However, in other municipalities around the United
11 States, design professionals and contractors are responsible for
12 ensuring that new construction meets all applicable codes.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 counties to establish a process to allow architects and
15 professional engineers to self-certify that plans for any new
16 construction are compliant with relevant state and county
17 building codes.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
19 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
20 read as follows:



1 "§46- Building code; self-certification. No later
2 than , , each county shall adopt an ordinance to
3 establish a process to allow an architect or professional
4 engineer licensed under chapter 464 to self-certify that any
5 plans accompanying a building permit application are in
6 compliance with all applicable state and county building codes."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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JAN 16 2024



H.B. NO. 1632

Report Title:

Housing; Counties; Building Codes; Self-Certification

Description:

Requires the counties to adopt an ordinance allowing licensed architects and professional engineers to self-certify that plans accompanying a building permit application are in compliance with all applicable state and county building codes.

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