

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



LATE

KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE COMMITTEE ON

JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 11, 2025, 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 745, H.D. 1

RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 745, H.D. 1 which proposes to amend section 107-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** on this measure and respectfully **requests its deferral**. The department offers the following comments regarding this measure:

1. As written, the measure will require adoption of the 2024 edition of the model codes listed in subsection (a)(3) published by the International Code Council (ICC) as the Hawaii state building code. The department notes that those model codes form only a portion of the suite of model codes historically

adopted (as amended) as the Hawaii state building codes, i.e., that suite of codes set forth in the measure's subsections (a)(1) through (4). Therefore, if advanced, the department suggests that the measure's language for subsection (b) be revised to refer to the list of model codes set forth in section 107-25, subsections (a)(1) through (4), as is shown in the suggested revised language for subsection (b), below.

2. The measure's current language may require automatic adoption of the unamended versions of the 2024 editions of the codes set forth in section 107-25, subsections (a)(1) through (4), with deleterious effect:
 - a. The unamended versions of those codes do not include important provisions relevant to Hawaii's unique requirements, including but not limited to wind loads, seismic loads, and other geography-linked considerations.
 - b. In addition, the unamended codes do not include provisions permitting the use of indigenous building practices and structures that have been developed to reflect, support, and sustain Hawaii's unique cultural milieu.

Should this measure be advanced, the department suggests that part (b) be revised to read:

“(b) Beginning on the date that each of the codes in the 2024, or subsequent, suite of published codes pursuant to section 107-25, subsections (a)(1) through (4), is amended to address relevant Hawaii-specific considerations and adopted as the Hawaii state building codes by

the council pursuant to section 107-24, all existing county building codes shall be superseded by the Hawaii state building codes. Thereafter, each county may amend the Hawaii state building codes as they apply within its own jurisdiction.”

The department notes that the activities of the council have been suspended by the Eleventh Emergency Proclamation Related to Housing and preceding proclamations and, therefore, the council has been unable to consider amendment of the model codes for adoption as the Hawaii state building codes. In the absence of such council action, the provisions of section 107-24 have required automatic adoption of the unamended editions of the 2021 model codes. To address this anomalous condition, and to avoid similar outcomes with respect to the 2024 model codes, the department is taking the extraordinary route of building staff expertise to develop Hawaii-specific amendments to the 2024 editions of the model codes, with the goal of having those Hawaii-specific amendments ready for the council to consider and adopt upon reactivation of the council's activities. The department would also like to share that:

1. If the measure is not deferred, relevant provisions of section 107-24 will require that the unamended editions of the 2024 model codes be adopted as the Hawaii state building codes, with the deleterious outcomes noted above.
2. Deferral of this measure will enable the department to continue to engage in developing Hawaii-specific amendments of the 2024 codes to reflect Hawaii's unique requirements and cultural milieu, and to ready those codes for expedited council adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

HB-745-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:05:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fire Chief Kazuo Todd	Hawaii Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kazuo Todd
Fire Chief
Hawai'i Fire Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: (808) 932-2900
Email: kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov
February 8th, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT for HB 745 – RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 745, which seeks to streamline Hawai'i's building code adoption process by establishing a single, uniform state building code. As Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department, I recognize the critical role that clear, consistent building regulations play in ensuring public safety, resilience, and efficient emergency response.

Under the current staggered system, counties must adopt and amend state building codes independently, creating inconsistencies, administrative delays, and higher costs for builders and emergency responders. These inefficiencies can lead to permitting backlogs, increased construction costs, and a lack of uniform safety standards, all of which exacerbate Hawai'i's existing housing crisis.

A unified state building code, as proposed in HB 745, offers several advantages:

1. Consistency in fire and safety standards, ensuring all counties adhere to uniform fire safety protocols, strengthening the resiliency of the State of Hawaii.
2. Reduction in bureaucratic delays, removing duplicative code adoption processes at the county level, which can streamline permitting timelines and help accelerate housing development.

3. More efficient use of resources, reducing the burden on county agencies and freeing up personnel and resources to focus on enforcement and compliance rather than code modifications.
4. Legal clarity and fairness, clarifying the authority of the State Building Code Council and ensuring a transparent process while still allowing counties to amend the code for localized needs, subject to state approval.

Standardizing the code adoption process enhances emergency preparedness and public protection. For these reasons, I urge the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs to pass HB 745 and move forward with a clear, consistent, and effective building code system for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kazuo Todd
Fire Chief
Hawai'i Fire Department

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Hugh Y. Ono, P.E.
Director

William V. Brilhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Neil A. Azevedo
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 Fax (808) 961-8630
public_works@hawaiicounty.gov

February 10, 2025


Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol

Subject: Testimony of the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works
Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
In Consideration of HB 745 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

The County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works – Building Division appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 745 HD1 and respectfully requests further consideration to ensure uniform application statewide while accounting for resource differences among counties.

The County of Hawaii acknowledges and appreciates reference to the International Code Council (ICC) suite, as referenced in this bill. The International Existing Building Code (IEBC) was absent from the original Section 107-25(a)(3), and its inclusion is a positive step forward. Importantly, we recognize that this bill applies only to subsection (a)(3), and all other codes under Section 107-25(a) remain unchanged.

However, the County of Hawai'i has concerns regarding the timeline for implementing the 2024 ICC Suite once adopted by the State Building Code Council. As currently written, the bill would require counties to implement the most recent state-adopted codes immediately. We respectfully urge the committee to retain the original bill language, "Beginning January 1, 2028," which would allow for the adoption and implementation of the 2021 ICC codes—codes under which permits for state projects have already been issued per Section 107-24(c).

House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
HB 745 HD1
February 10, 2025

Additionally, if the 2024 ICC Suite is adopted by the State Building Code Council, the County of Hawai'i will require additional time to implement the newly approved council amendments and train staff on code interpretations and enforcement.

To ensure an effective transition, we request that counties be granted two years from the State's adoption to implement the new codes, as provided under Section 107-28. This would be preferable to the proposed language stating that "all existing county building codes shall be superseded by the most recent Hawai'i state building codes adopted by the council."

We appreciate the committee's time and consideration of these concerns and respectfully request amendments to HB 745 HD1 that account for county-level resource and implementation challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,



Hugh Y. Ono, P.E.
Director

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/dpp

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE
PO'O

BRYAN GALLAGHER, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

REGINA MALEPEAI
2ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O KUALUA

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: House Bill No. 745, HD1
Relating to Building Codes

Dear Chair Evslin and Committee Members:

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on House Bill No. 745 HD1, relating to building codes.

We had no objections to the original version of this Bill, which repealed section 107-28, and provided that existing county codes would be superseded beginning January 1, 2028, by the most recent Hawaii state building codes adopted by the council pursuant to section 107-24. However, the HD 1 deletes the January 1, 2028, deadline and provides the county no grace period to adopt administrative, permitting or enforcement and inspection procedures, which are excluded from adoption pursuant to HRS section 107-26. Therefore, this would substantially reduce or eliminate our current authority to process permits and take enforcement actions.

We suggest restoring the January 1, 2028, to allow the counties time to adopt the amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Takeuchi Apuna".

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director Designate



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025, House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Committee Room 325

RE: House Bill 745 HD1 Related to Building Codes- **STRONG OPPOSITION**

Aloha Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poe Poe, and Committee Members;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) offers the following testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of House Bill 745 HD1 (HB745 HD1).

IBEW 1260, is comprised of approximately 3,000 members throughout Hawaii and Guam and consists of a diverse and highly-skilled workforce that supports the electric utility infrastructure across our state as well as government service contracts and broadcasting. It's our duty to serve and to protect the well-being of our members, but beyond that, it is incumbent upon all of us to serve and protect the well-being of our island home.

HB745 HD1 adopts the International Code Council 2024 suite of published codes as the Hawaii state building codes to supersede all existing county building codes and thereafter allows counties to amend the Hawaii state building codes as it applies within their jurisdiction. Additionally, this bill repeals section 107-28 which limits the authority of the counties to only make amendments that exceed the minimum codes and standards adopted by the State.

A building code provides rules and standards for the design, construction, alteration, materials, maintenance, and performance of buildings. Its intent and purpose is to protect public health, safety, and general welfare in the construction and occupancy of buildings, and are adopted and enforced by state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) entities.¹

Allowing counties to remove requirements of the state building codes adopted by the State Building Code Council (SBCC), completely eviscerates and undermines the primary intent and purpose of establishing and maintaining minimum, consistent and uniform statewide building codes and standards.

Provisions found on page 2, line(s) 18 through 21, and page 3, line(s) 1 through 4, attempts to address confusion in the design and building industry resulting from the state's ongoing suspension of the SBCC and its duties and responsibilities to adopt state uniform building codes and standards.

However, HB745 HD1 provides counties with unfettered authority to disregard the minimum codes and standards established by the SBCC which runs counter to the intent of a state uniform code.

¹ Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations, Frequently Asked Questions, Congressional Research Service, Updated November 22, 2023.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

HB745 HD1 also repeals section 107-28 and section 46-1.5(13) which currently restricts and limits the counties authority to amend or adopt only such codes and standards that ***exceed*** the minimum codes and standards established by the SBCC, and not those that reduce or diminish them. (See **§46-1.5(13)** below).

§46-1.5 General powers and limitation of the counties. Subject to general law, each county shall have the following powers and shall be subject to the following liabilities and limitations:

(13) Each county shall have the power to enact ordinances deemed necessary to protect health, life, and property, and to preserve the order and security of the county and its inhabitants on any subject or matter ***not inconsistent with, or tending to defeat, the intent of any state statute where the statute does not disclose an express or implied intent that the statute shall be exclusive or uniform throughout the State;***

Most objectionable, HB745, HD1 appears to attempt to adopt the International Code Councils suite of codes as the State building codes and allow each county to further repeal and/or adopt entire codes and standards, which essentially circumvents those codes and standards expressly provided and recognized in section 107-25 as the State's building codes.

HB745, HD1 does nothing to address the concerns raised regarding the State Building Code Council, but if adopted will cause additional confusion and significant disruption in the building industry.

As such, we respectfully request that HB745, HD1 be HELD.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Feb. 11, 2025, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: HB745 — RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB745 HD1](#), which would replace the current building code adoption process with a single state building code.

Grassroot believes this would help fix the state's convoluted building code-adoption process, since it would balance the objectives of safety and cost.

Under HB745, the State Building Code Council would make changes to and adopt model building codes, and the counties would have the option to remove from or add to the state building code — but there would be no requirement.

State law currently requires the State Building Code Council to adopt every iteration of the International Building Code and related codes within two years of their release; the counties have an additional two years to adopt and make their amendments to the state code. HB745 would remove this two-step process.

That’s important, because the Council and counties often struggle to meet these deadlines. For example, it was only in April 2021 that the State Building Code Council adopted the 2018 Interim Building Code¹ and not until early 2023 that Honolulu fully adopted those amendments.²

Because of this staggered adoption process, county building officials, builders and architects must constantly re-learn the building code’s requirements. For builders, this means navigating as many as four different codes, which takes time and training, increasing administrative costs.

The almost-constant nature of the building code updates also stresses already understaffed county planning and permitting departments and can exacerbate permitting delays, which research shows can affect the price of housing.³

As measured by the state’s Honolulu Construction Cost Index, the cost for single-family homes in 2024 was 2.6 times higher than the cost in 2020. For highrises, the cost was 2.5 times higher.⁴

The state’s strict land-use, zoning and permitting rules are a key driver of these costs. The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai’i has estimated that regulations comprise 58% of the cost of new condominium construction.⁵

A unified state building code would maintain the health and safety standards while contributing to the repair of a broken process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ [“State Building Code Adoption,”](#) State Building Code Council, April 20, 2021, p. 1.

² [“Interim Building Code \(2018 IBC\) Takes Effect,”](#) Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting, April 20, 2023.

³ Paul Emrath, [“How Government Regulation Affects the Price of a New Home,”](#) National Association of Homebuilders, Economics and Housing Policy Group, 2011, p. 5; and Adam Millsap, Samuel Staley and Vittorio Nastasi, [“Assessing the Effects of Local Impact Fees and Land-use Regulations on Workforce Housing in Florida,”](#) James Madison Institute, Dec. 11, 2018, p. 19.

⁴ [“Quarterly Statistical and Economic Report, 4th Quarter 2024,”](#) Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, pp. 107-108.

⁵ Justin Tyndall and Emi Kim, [“Why are Condominiums so Expensive in Hawai’i?”](#), The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai’i, May 2024, p. 11.



Hawai'i YIMBY
Honolulu, HI 96814
hawaiiyimby.org
info@hawaiiyimby.org

February 11, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT for HB 745 HD1 - RELATING TO BUILDING CODES

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i YIMBY, we are writing in **support of HB 745 HD1** which would simplify how we adopt and incorporate updated international building codes into our local building codes.

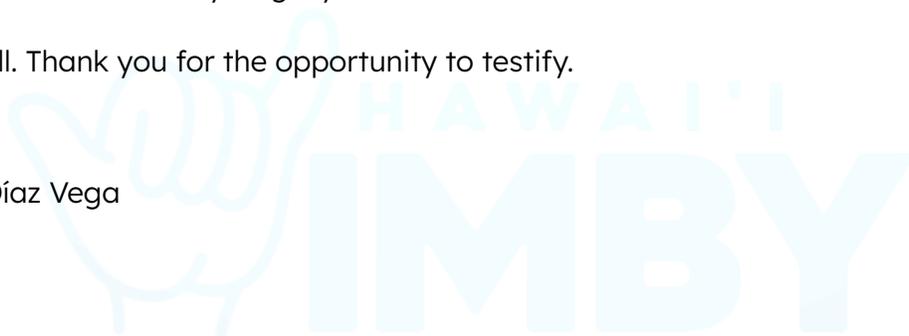
We believe in streamlining permitting. Combining, simplifying or removing layers of regulation that slow the permitting process for housing is important. With regard to the adoption of building codes, delays in adopting new building codes can result in unnecessary requirements that add cost to construction or delays in being able to use more efficient building technologies or materials. We need to be aware of aspects that unnecessarily add costs to our already high housing production costs.

Hawai'i YIMBY (*Yes In My Backyard*) is a volunteer-led grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to supporting bold and effective solutions for Hawai'i's devastating housing crisis. Our members are deeply concerned about Hawai'i's chronic and worsening housing shortage, which has caused home prices to rise much faster than incomes and pushes thousands of kama'āina out to the mainland or into homelessness every single year.

We ask your support for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Damien Waikoloa & Edgardo Díaz Vega
Chapter Leads, Hawai'i YIMBY





Via E-File

March 28, 2023

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB745 HD1 Relating to Building Codes

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.

HB745 HD1 seeks to streamline Hawaii's building codes by automatically updating all county building codes to the most recently adopted Hawaii model building codes.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill, we **oppose** the bill as written, and would like to provide the following comments:

- We note that proposed subsection 107-25(b) only references the "International Code Council 2024 suite of published codes pursuant to subsection (a)(3)", which includes the International Building Code, International Residential Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code, however, the other legislatively mandated Hawaii state model codes: (a)(1) State Fire Code, (a)(2) Uniform Plumbing Code published by IAPMO, and (a)(4) National Electrical Code published by NFPA, each have their own separate publishing organization and publishing cycle. In order to provide clarity, we recommend that the bill's language be amended to reference all legislatively mandated codes as follows:

§ 107-25(b) Beginning with council's adoption of the 2024 or later publications for each of the respective model Hawaii state building codes listed in section 107-25, all existing county building codes shall be superseded by the most recent Hawaii state building codes adopted by the council pursuant to section 107-24. Thereafter, each county may amend the code pursuant to section 107-28.

- We strongly oppose the elimination of section 107-28(a). The requirements of section 107-28(a) are vitally important because it mandates the counties to adopt the Hawaii codes and standards listed in 107-25 into their respective county ordinances and in accordance with section 46-1.5(13). This requirement also helps to provide consistency and reduce confusion for code users, therefore, we recommend retaining the necessary language in section 107-28(a) and deleting 107-28(b) as follows:

§ 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~~].

~~*[(b) If a county does not amend the Hawaii state building codes within the two-year time frame, the Hawaii state building codes shall become applicable as an interim county building code.]*~~

- We recommend that language be added to section 107-25, to established a uniform compliance date for the permit approval and design of county building construction, similar to what is included in section 107-27(a) for the design of state buildings. This later compliance date is needed to provide design professionals, contractors, and other stakeholders sufficient time, after a code's adoption, to include any required code changes in their building design prior to submitting for permit approvals. Furthermore, a uniform compliance date will help to reduce disparities between the state and various counties, and will establish a clear cut off date for permit applicants.

§107-25(c) Building construction in the counties. No later than one year after the adoption of codes or standards pursuant to section 107-25(b), the design of all building construction in the counties shall be in compliance with their respective county's building codes.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony.

Respectfully,



Gregg S. Serikaku
Executive Director



February 10, 2025

TO: Honorable David Tamas, Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Honorable Mahina Poepoe Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

SUBJECT: **House Bill 745 HD1**
Relating to Building Codes

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 Tamas and Vice Chair Poepoe
and Members of the Committee,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Hawaii State Council and our Legislative Advocacy Committee **SUPPORT** HB 745 HD1 based on the overall intent of the bill.

Fulfilling HRS 107-24 intent for most current codes

AIA strongly supported original 2007 legislation intent on ensuring the state's building codes are current. In support of the current State building code adoption as over-arching law of the land, a simple and swift adoption of the State building code (with State amendments) will be consistent Statewide. This greatly reduces the amount of "churning" of building codes by all County staff members (already understaffed). This measure helps the entire building industry to focus on only one code statewide instead of both State building code AND County adopted amended state building code.

Understanding County preference for more State support in timely code adoption

AIA understands all counties indicate a lack of staff to support "churning" of the State Building Code once adopted to then recreate County amendments. Further any additional back and forth between State and county after SBCC adopts Hawaii state building code will increase difficulties and create delay. AIA suggestion to HD1 is to allow the Council to conduct business of State code adoption with robust / upfront county input during the creation of the State Building Code amendments, especially since a representative from each county has a seat-at-the-table during all SBCC deliberations. Suggest adding to Section 1, (6), (b) to read:

(b) Beginning on the date that the International Code Council 2024 suite of published codes pursuant to subsection (a) (3) is adopted as the Hawaii state building code, all existing county building codes shall be superseded by the most recent Hawaii state building codes adopted by the council pursuant to section 107-24. Thereafter, each county may **make minor updates to amend** the Hawaii state building codes as they apply within its own jurisdiction **by means of county council ordinances.**"

Overall this lessens the need for counties to recreate entirely new amendments each code cycle but still allows counties to make county specific amendments that did not pass in SBCC deliberations. All major county code adjustments will be deliberated by SBCC and incorporated into the Hawaii state code upfront while all minor adjustments will be deliberated in county council after Hawaii state building code is adopted Statewide. AIA suggested strategy supports State leadership in code adoption and lessens the load Counties are burdened with.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strategic thoughts in **SUPPORT** to House Bill 745 HD1.

Sincerely,
AIA Legislative Advocacy Committee
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

HB-745-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:36:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Burchard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 745. This bill is an important step in increasing the housing supply in Hawaii and addressing the challenges our state faces in providing affordable and attainable housing.

This bill will reduce delays, lower costs, and make it easier for developers to navigate the regulatory landscape. With a more predictable framework, builders can move forward with housing projects without being bogged down by differing local regulations, ultimately making it more feasible to increase the number of homes being built.

Additionally, the bill's focus on disaster-resistant standards, such as hurricane mitigation, will help ensure that new housing is built to withstand Hawaii's unique natural challenges, creating safer, more durable homes for local residents.

I believe that by simplifying the construction process, HB 745 will encourage more development of both residential and affordable housing in our state, helping to ease the housing crisis and ensure that more local families have access to the homes they need.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. I urge you to support its passage.