



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:  
Web:

(808) 587-3807  
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

March 22, 2022  
1:05 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**OPPOSE  
HB 1747 HD2  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) opposes HB 1747, HD2, which requires the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to consult with building industry trade associations to gather cost data on the implementation of certain building codes or standards and calculate the financial impact of those codes and standards, including amortized utility costs, on the cost of single-family and multi-family homes built in the State; and requires the annual report to the governor to include the cost provided by building industry trade associations on certain codes and standards adopted by the council.

HSEO acknowledges that costs are a concern of some participants and stakeholders. It is important to look at the costs and benefits, particularly in light of the state's energy goals and today's spiking energy prices, which building codes can help alleviate through energy efficiency measures. The bill's requirements are not holistic. Building codes have up-front costs which are much more cost-effective than requiring improvements after the fact.

HSEO also notes that the SBCC already has significant trade association involvement. Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 107 Part II<sup>1</sup>, "State Building Code and Design Standards," which formed the SBCC, reads in part, "The council shall consult

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Revised Statutes, sections [107-21 through 107-31](#), inclusive.

with building trade associations to gather information and recommendations on construction practices and training relevant to building codes and standards.”<sup>2</sup> Also, the composition of the SBCC includes “One member representing the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i, or the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i, who has significant experience with building codes, with alternating four-year terms between the two organizations;”<sup>3</sup> and representatives from the State Fire Council, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Subcontractors Association of Hawai'i.

As a State entity, the SBCC abides by sunshine laws and welcomes representatives from the industry and unions to raise concerns regarding codes and construction costs. Participants in SBCC meetings include representatives from Pacific Resource Partnership, Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, Plumbers & Fitters Local 675, Hawai'i Laborers and Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Fund, Hawai'i Construction Alliance, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Laborers International Union of North America Local 363 and the Laborers International Union of North America.

While the State Building Code statute refers to an “executive director and executive assistant,” and cites “budgetary requirements for conducting meetings, training, travel and other related responsibilities,”<sup>4</sup> the SBCC has received no discrete funding. Adding a requirement to provide estimated costs for each new code provision and an annual report will require expertise, budgetary support, and necessitate staffing of the SBCC.

Therefore, HSEO believes this measure would add a significant unfunded cost burden and duplicates mandated and existing industry participation that already exists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

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<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i Revised Statutes, section [107-24\(e\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> Hawai'i Revised Statutes, [section 107-22\(a\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> Hawai'i Revised Statutes, [section 107-23](#).