



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

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2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS
HB 1747
RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 1747, which requires the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to consult with building industry trade associations to gather cost data on the implementation of 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. It also requires the annual report to the Governor to include the cost provided by building industry trade associations on each code and standard adopted by the Council.

We have several comments which point to the SBCC already having significant trade association involvement.

Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 107 Part II,¹ "State Building Code and Design Standards," which formed the SBCC, reads in part, "The council shall consult with building trade associations to gather information and recommendations on construction practices and training relevant to building codes and standards."²

The composition of the SBCC shall include, "One member representing the Building Industry Association of Hawai'i, or the General Contractors Association of

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

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

Hawaii, who has significant experience with building codes, with alternating four-year terms between the two organizations.”³

The SBCC also includes representatives from the state fire council, the department of labor and industrial relations, and the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii.

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, Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, Plumbers & Fitters Local 675, Hawaii Laborers and Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Fund, Hawaii 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,”⁴ the SBCC has received no funding. The SBCC is run mostly by volunteers. Adding a requirement to provide estimated costs for each new code provision will require specialized expertise and necessitate staffing of the SBCC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

³ Hawaii Revised Statutes, [section 107-22\(a\)](#).

⁴ Hawaii Revised Statutes, [section 107-23](#).