



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
9:40 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

In OPPOSITION to  
**SB 495**

**RELATING TO STATE BUILDING CODES.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) opposes the current language contained in SB 495, which extends the time to amend and adopt the Hawai'i state building codes from two years to six years, but provides an alternative approach and suggests language to address what we understand to be the underlying concern that prompted the drafting of this bill.

The change proposed by the bill in its current form could seriously compromise Hawai'i's ability to provide safe, healthy and economical homes and buildings and set back Hawai'i's goal of a decarbonized economy. Hawai'i Revised Statutes 107-24 states that "the adoption of a code or standard shall be within two years of the official publication date of the code or standard." The intent of HRS 107-24 is to synchronize Hawai'i's code adoption cycle with the national cycle which updates codes every three years. National codes are updated based on lessons learned from disasters and failure analyses, as well as advances in technologies.<sup>1</sup> Delaying Hawai'i's adoption of current building codes will reduce the rate at which better designs and technologies are included in Hawai'i's buildings. The importance of timely adoption of building codes and

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Building Sciences. *Benefits and Challenges of a Timely Code Adoption Cycle*.  
<https://www.caba.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/IS-2018-92.pdf>

standards is why the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses timely code adoption as a criterion in its funding for disaster mitigation, resilience and recovery projects.

HSEO recommends that section 107-28 (a) Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) remain unchanged, and that section 107-28 (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, be amended to read as follows:

(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two-year time frame, the Hawaii state building codes shall become applicable as an interim county building code until superseded by the adoption of an amended version of the code by the county pursuant to this subsection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.