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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 2089, HD1

RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 2089, HD1, which requires that the adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) be adopted **every other** code cycle, putting them on a six-year adoption cycle while the remaining codes shall be adopted during every three-year cycle per HRS-107-24.

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," synchronizing Hawai'i's code adoption cycle with national code adoption cycle. Failure to follow the national cycle could put the health, safety, and welfare of building occupants at risk. Noncompliance could also jeopardize opportunities for federal funding which is often contingent on timely code adoption. Both of these issues should be causes of concern about potential adverse impacts of HB 2089, HD1.

To elaborate, national codes are updated by national experts based on lessons learned from disasters and failure analyses, as well as advances in technologies.¹

¹ 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>

Delaying Hawai'i's adoption of current building codes would 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 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. This is explained more on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Code Adoption Tracking website.²

Also, HSEO's recently released [Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report](#) to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature discusses the topic of adopting the latest building codes, stating that codes are one of the key drivers of energy efficiency within the state and that "energy efficiency and conservation are the single most important and most cost-effective measure to meaningfully reduce electricity demand..."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.