



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on  
**HB 2089**

## **RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE.**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) has comments on HB 2089 which has the effect of changing Hawaii's building code adoption cycle from three years to "every other" cycle, or six years, putting Hawaii out of step with the national three-year cycles.

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 with national code adoption. 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 are causes of concern.

To elaborate, national codes are updated by national experts 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 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

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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>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat>