Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Introductions and Public Comments

   a. The attendees introduced themselves.

   b. Members reviewed and discussed language from the last meeting brought forward by Shannon Alivado, on behalf of Member Tyler Dillon of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) for two proposed amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2015 edition, regarding electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in parking structures and residential occupancies. Member Haigh stated he believes the proposed revisions would provide the needed capacity in the electrical distribution system.
system to charge EV vehicles at a minimal cost. Since EV vehicles are expected to increase, the meter upgrade cost would be minimal and would be available for future use. Charging stations could be programmed to assess the vehicle user and has support from the GCA and the Building Industry Association of Hawaii. Member Haigh requested an amendment support letter from the GCA to present to the Kauai County Council. Member Ueno stated Maui County is uncertain on the future of charging stations in buildings since the technology is advancing so rapidly.

3. Review and approval of minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting.

   Motion: Member Haigh motioned to approve the June 19, 2018, meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Discussion of Administrative Coordination

   Member Rogers received an email from DAGS Administrative Officer, Meoh-Leng Silliman, requesting clarifying language be added to Member Johnson’s last meeting comments regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds. The memorandum of agreement between DAGS and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency would be for the expenditure of FEMA grant funds to adopt administrative rules for building and residential codes. Act 141, 2017 Legislative Session appropriated funds for the review, update and adoption of appropriate updates to the state building code, of which $60,000 is available for FY19 that the grant would reimburse.

5. Discussion of 2019 Legislation

   Member Rogers suggested for consideration that the current SBCC Hawaii Revised Statute 107, which states that any recommended state amendments shall require the unanimous agreement of the subcommittee of building officials, grants a degree of power, such that one building official could overrule the majority agreement for an amendment by the other ten voting members. Member Haigh stated that because the state building code provides design and construction uniformity statewide, the county building officials should be agreed on all amendments. The statute was crafted very conservatively, with checks and balances, such that the majority of the members could overrule a unanimous county amendment proposal. They are also the authority for code requirements for their county. To date, he could not recall a State amendment that there had not been an unanimous agreement among the four building officials.
6. Updates from the investigative committees:

   a. Investigative committee for the structural provisions for the IBC and the IRC

      There were no updates.

   b. Investigative committee for the non-structural provisions of the IBC and the IRC.

      There were no updates.

   c. Investigative committee for the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

      Chair Wiig stated that energy efficiency has progressed and been accepted so readily that there may not be a need for an energy code in the future. He also mentioned that the Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio, or CEER, is the new standard by which window air conditioners are rated by the Department of Energy, but he has not received an official notice of this.

   d. Investigative committee for the Uniform Plumbing Code

      Members were informed by the State Deputy Attorney General (DAG) that according to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board statute, they do not hold hearings for codes that are not proceeding through the administrative rules process. An agenda item for the next meeting will be added to consider final approval the UPC 2012 edition, which has not changed since its original approval.

   e. Investigative committee for the Green Code

      There was no update.

   f. Investigative committee for the Mechanical Code

      There was no update. Member Rogers will contact State Department of Health to report on any future SBCC meeting participation and provide an update on any adoption of an updated mechanical code.
g. Investigative committee for the State Fire Code

The NFPA Fire Code 1 2015 edition is being reviewed by the DAG.

h. Investigative committee for the energy efficiency code coordination

The next meeting will be held in August.

i. Investigative committee for the State Electrical Code

There were no updates. An agenda item will be added to the next meeting for final consideration and approval of the National Electrical Code 2017 edition as the next State Electrical Code.

7. Update on communication and training

There was no update.

8. Update on county and state adoption of building codes

a. Maui is proceeding with the adoption of the IECC 2015 edition with almost all the recommended amendments from the State Energy Office and added a mass wall amendment. Mass walls provide energy efficiency through mass rather than insulation, which allows energy to be stored during the day and released during the night. Hawaii County is proceeding with the IECC 2015 edition and nothing to new to report on Honolulu’s progress. The Governor informed the DAGS Comptroller that repaired State buildings shall use contractors that are compliant to the State Energy Code.

b. Kauai County Council will meet to adopt the both the IECC 2015 edition, the NEC 2017 edition in August, and the UPC 2012 edition in November 2018. They are waiting on input from the plumbers union for the UPC and a cost impact of the IECC 2015 edition and the NEC 2017 edition. Kauai contractors are opposed to any new codes that increase construction costs because it will raise housing prices and allow less people to qualify for mortgages.

11. Discussion of possible agenda item(s) for next Council meeting

Member Bert Yorita, representative from the State Elevator Division, informed that there are several issues with an updated adoption of a State Elevator Code,
including cut off dates for compliance to new standards depending on when the buildings were constructed, and applying the new standards to existing buildings that are being renovated. The next elevator standard to be considered will be the 2016 edition. The updated elevator code will also need to have a provision to be in compliance to an updated edition of the building code. An investigative committee for the State Elevator Code will added as a regular agenda item for the next meeting.

12. Announcements

There were no announcements.

13. Next meeting: August 21, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Member Haigh motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.