

State Building Code Council Meeting (SBCC)  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
9:00 a.m.

Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS)  
Comptroller's Conference Room 410  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

West Hawaii Civic Center  
Building "E", First Floor  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

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**Minutes**

1. Call to Order by Chair Gaur Johnson: 9:13 a.m., Attendees - see list
2. Introductions and Public Comments:
  - a. Ramsey Brown of Hawaii Energy, discussed HB 1249, which proposes to convene a working group to develop standards for reporting energy consumption to facilitate comparisons of energy consumption and costs by consumers and homebuyers. He recommended an agenda item to discuss further.
  - b. Gladys Marrone, of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA), requested that Eric Nakagawa, of Randolph Murayama & Associates, Inc., be allowed to present information on a BIA commissioned study regarding residential sprinklers. Chair approved. Mr. Nakagawa stated that their report used national codes and standards to evaluate residential sprinkler requirements that includes the use of a one-inch water meter. The costs for one-inch meters were used to calculate each county's total sprinkler installation cost. SBCC member comments included that the standard  $\frac{3}{4}$ " water meter for domestic use in Honolulu is approved for residential sprinkler systems. The SBCC is also researching new information that a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " water meter can be used for residential sprinklers.
  - c. Former SBCC member and structural engineer, Gary Chock, provided a handout with information on a project study for the City and County of Honolulu on developing disaster resilient measures for reducing building construction vulnerability to natural hazards that considered climate change effects. Since infrastructure and critical facilities most impacted by climate

change are often government-owned and built or government-regulated, industry owned and built, new or amended building codes would be used to address these areas of concern.

- d. Kraig Stevenson, of the International Code Council (ICC), requested the SBCC to initiate a state and county proclamation that May 2017, be promoted as “Building Safety Month”. Founded by the ICC, it is a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.
3. Review and approval of minutes of February 14, 2017 meeting.

**Motion:** Member Wiig motioned to approve the February 14, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Administrative rule process for adopting the State Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) amendments. No update.
5. Administrative rule process for adopting for the State Electrical Code (NEC) amendments. Member Rogers reported that the proposed NEC has been delivered to the Governor for final approval.
6. Administrative rule process for adopting for the State International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC).

Chair Johnson provided a handout of proposed amendments to the IRC 2012 edition from the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii. Amendments included wind speed design criteria, alternate determination of seismic design criteria, irregular buildings, and raised floor systems. The Subcommittee of Building Officials, who met prior to this meeting, began its review of the information and will continue next month. Chair would also like to have industry feedback for the proposed IBC/IRC amendments.

7. 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), 2012 UPC and 2014 NEC public hearings. Member Wiig reported that the proposed IECC has been delivered to the Governor for final approval.
8. Discussion of 2017 Legislation

**Motion:** Chair motioned to discuss Act 83 after agenda item 10 j. The motion was unanimously approved.

- a. Other Legislative Bills

- 1) Chair discussed HB 637 which proposes to expedite the review, update and adoption of the UPC. Kraig Stevenson recalled Sherman Wong providing water efficiency provisions from the Green Code.

**Motion:** Member Haigh motioned for the SBCC to submit testimony in opposition to HB 637 because the bill will not be effective in changing the timely adoption of the UPC. Testimony will also include that the SBCC, with its 100% voluntary membership, has not been funded since its formation in 2007, and lacks staff to facilitate the administrative rule process for all the Hawaii building codes. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2) Members discussed HB 1249. Member Wigg commented that many of the issues in the bill will be addressed by the adoption of the IECC 2015 edition.

- c. Other Legislative Bills Continued. SBCC discussed bills related to a legislative appropriation to update standards for hurricane mitigation and secure a reimbursement grant, clarifying the loss reduction plan of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund, includes building codes that address hurricane mitigation standards, allowing homes with smaller room sizes, and homeless residences that shall follow plumbing and electrical permit code requirements.

9. Updates from the investigative committees:

- a. Investigative committee for structural provisions for the 2012 IBC and IRC. – See item #6 above.
- b. Investigative committee for the non-structural 2012 provisions of IBC & IRC. Jim Reinhardt – No update.
- c. Investigative committee for the IECC. Member Wiig passed out an article highlighting the SBCC's recent approval of the International Energy Conservation Code 2015 edition and a research study by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory showing a 21% energy cost savings for residential buildings, including single-family houses when the code is adopted. It also described the addition of a tropical climate zone with tropic specific codes applicable to Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico and others. Tropic specific additions include requirements for insulation, ventilation, ceiling fans, and air sealing. Also see item #7 above.
- d. Investigative committee for the UPC – See item #4 above.
- e. Investigative committee for the Mechanical Code - No update.
- f. Investigative committee for the Green Code – No update.

- g. Investigative committee for the State Fire Code – The committee continues to meet to finalize administrative rules to the State Fire Code 2015 edition.
- h. Investigative committee for the National Electrical Code – See item #5 above.
- i. Investigative committee on communication and training – Hawaii County of Building Officials annual conference will be held May 24-25, 2017, on Kauai.
- j. Investigative committee for SBCC membership with the International Code Council (ICC) – Chair will contact Kraig Stevenson for an update. Also provide reimbursement amounts for SBCC ICC memberships.

#### 10. Discussion of 2017 Legislation Continued

- d. Discussion of Act 83, 2012 Legislative Session (Residential Fire Sprinklers)

Member Cheung contacted the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and reported that there were no applicants who requested a residential sprinkler system to be installed for the project development in Waimanalo. Shannon Alivado commented that some of these applicants were qualified as Habitat for Humanity partners, who are assisted by volunteers to build their homes and would not otherwise qualify as homeowners.

#### 11. Update on county and state adoption of building codes

Kauai County is anticipating adopting the NEC 2014 edition in April 2017. Honolulu is anticipating adopting the IBC/IRC 2012 edition.

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

- a. Energy Efficiency Issues
- b. Report from Subcommittee for the review of structural amendments to the IRC 2012 edition.
- c. Notify the Chair or Member Rogers with any suggested agenda items.

#### 13. Announcements

#### 14. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**Motion:** Member Wiig motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.