

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT ON
THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 2018

SUBMITTED TO
THE THIRTIETH STATE LEGISLATURE IN
RESPONSE TO SECTION 107-30, HRS

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DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES (DAGS)
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Summary

Pursuant to the Act 82, SLH 2007,

The State Building Code Council (SBCC) was formed pursuant to Act 82, State Legislative Session 2007, and is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 107-21-31, authorizes the SBCC to review the national model building codes and standards within two years of their publication and adopt the State of Hawaii building codes. These codes and standards include building, residential, fire, electrical, plumbing, energy, and elevator provisions. The SBCC is required to submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019. Eleven voluntary members comprised of the four county building officials, State energy, fire, elevator, and private designer and building industry experts meet monthly. Investigative committees, comprised of experts in the various building fields produce thee technical amendments for the SBCC review and approval. State projects are required to be designed and constructed one year after the adoption of the State building codes. The SBCC is not required to adopt administrative rules, but that is delegated to the DAGS. Two years after the State building codes are adopted the counties are required to adopt their county building code ordinances with administrative, enforcement, and any additional technical amendments. When administered and enforced the results are: (1) substantial savings in long-term operating, energy, and construction costs for publicly and privately owned and operated facilities; (2) construction of homes which are better protected from the effects of man-made and natural disasters; (3) businesses and an economy in Hawaii which are more resilient in the aftermath of natural disasters. Indeed, updating building codes generally reduce long-term costs—one dollar of prevention saves three dollars in recovery.

Membership

The Council members are:

1. Chair Howard Wiig, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), State Energy Office
2. Vice Chair Willard Nishigata, City and County of Honolulu
3. Gaur Johnson, Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii
4. Neal Tanaka, County of Hawaii
5. Glenn Ueno, County of Maui
6. Doug Haigh, County of Kauai
7. Bert Yorita, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
8. James Reinhardt, American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council
9. Gregg Serikaku, Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

10. Lloyd Rogers, State Fire Council
11. Tyler Dillon, General Contractors Association of Hawaii

Scope of Work conducted or initiated during the Year

Investigative committees, which are comprised of building experts in industry and government and serve on a voluntary basis, review and propose amendments to the national model codes and standards as follows:

- a. Structural provisions for the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC)
- b. Non-structural provisions for the IBC and the IRC
- c. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- d. The Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- e. The State Fire Code (SFC)
- f. The National Electrical Code (NEC)
- g. Elevator Standards
- h. The Green Building Code
- i. Energy Efficiency Code Coordination
- j. Communication and Training
- k. Council membership with the International Code Council

The Subcommittee of Building Officials is comprised of the members representing each county on the Council. They conducted five Subcommittee meetings during FY 2018 which resulted in the approval of the following technical recommendations for further consideration by the council.

- Accepted the recommendations by the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH) for structural provision amendments to the 2012 IBC.
- Accepted the recommendations by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Codes Committee for non-structural provision amendments to the 2012 IBC.
- Accepted recommendations to the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code
- Accepted recommendations to the 2017 National Electrical Code

Achievements during the Year

Council reviewed and approved the following codes with Hawaii State amendments:

- a. The 2012 Edition of the International Building Code (IBC)
- b. The 2012 Edition of the International Residential Code (IRC)
- c. The 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC)
- d. The 2012 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- e. Review and amend the 2018 editions of the IBC, IRC, UPC, and the National Fire Protection Association Fire Code 2015 and 2018 editions.

Kauai County subcommittee adopted the 2017 NEC in September 2018. It is expected that all counties will adopt the 2017 NEC and the 2015 IECC in early 2019 with adoption of the IRC, IBC and plumbing code to take place by mid-2019.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency grant application was filed in November 2015, to provide support to adopt the 2012 Edition of the IBC with Hawaii amendments. This code is necessary to modernize Hawaii codes for hurricane, tsunami, and earthquake resistive standards, and compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program and recently updated disaster relief grant policy changes. Non-compliance jeopardizes Hawaii's eligibility for pre- and post-disaster federal assistance and grants. Therefore, the legal adoption of the 2012 IBC as a Hawaii regulation is critically needed in 2019.

Annual operating costs of the SBCC are estimated to be \$150,000.

These costs include: (1) an executive director and executive assistant who facilitate all aspects of the HAR rule making process and (2) all costs associated with advertising and holding public hearings including providing required hard copies of code documents for public review. The executive director and executive assistant positions ideally are permanent but could also be contract hires. To date, no funds have been allocated to fund the operations of the SBCC.

The SBCC continues its work to review and adopt the latest editions of the national model building codes and standards. Voluntary work done by the SBCC provides the State of Hawaii with the most modern and technically advanced materials, methods, and cost effectiveness for the built environment for the health, safety and general welfare of our citizens.