

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT ON  
THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 2019

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

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES (DAGS)  
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Summary

Pursuant to the Act 82, SLH 2007, the State Building Code Council (the Council) is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020. The Council is responsible to review and approved nationally recognized minimum requirements for design and construction to safeguard life, property, and the general welfare. These requirements are formulated in national codes and standards relating to buildings, residences, electrical, plumbing, fire, energy, etc. Realizing the value and importance of the Council's mission, its "voluntary" membership has continued to meet monthly to work on national model building code updates and amendments. The meetings are held in an open forum pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 92, and exempt from the requirements of HRS Chapter 91. More information regarding Hawaii Building Codes, investigative committees, code adoption timeline, meeting agendas and minutes, can be found at: <http://ags.hawaii.gov/bcc/>.

Investigative committees, comprised of subject matter experts, produce and complete statewide specific technical draft amendments to the national model codes and standards, which are reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee of Building Officials. The Council will then review the approved draft amendments while allowing an open comment period, before approving the final amendments. The national codes and standards with approved statewide technical amendments will apply to all State design and construction and will be the basis of the respective county building codes. The application and enforcement of these codes will result in: (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 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.

Administration and enforcement of these codes is primarily done by the counties. The statute which established the SBCC requires that each county amend or adopt any new building codes within two years of the state adoption. The two year mandate helps the counties initiate timely action in their county ordinance adoption process for of each state building code.

Membership

The Council members and their affiliations are:

1. Howard Wiig, Chair, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), State Energy Office

2. Tyler Dillon, Vice Chair, Building Industry Association of Hawaii
3. Lyle Carden, Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii
4. Doug Haigh, County of Kauai
5. Dennis Mendoza, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
6. Richard Myers, American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council
7. Willard Nishigata, City and County of Honolulu
8. Lloyd Rogers, State Fire Council
9. Gregg Serikaku, Subcontractors Association of Hawaii
10. Neal Tanaka, County of Hawaii
11. Glenn Ueno, County of Maui  
Curt T. Otaguro, DAGS Comptroller (non-voting)

#### Achievements during the Year

On August 31, 2019, the following national codes were adopted by default as State Building Codes, without amendments, due to the requirement that the Council adopt the latest edition of national codes and standards within two years of their publication date:

- a. The 2018 Edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- b. The 2018 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- c. The 2018 Edition of the International Building Code (IBC)

#### Scope of Work conducted or initiated during the Year

Investigative committees, which are comprised of experts in industry and government, served on a voluntary basis, reviewed and proposed amendments to the national model codes and standards and are as follows:

- a. Structural provisions for the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) 2018 edition (Draft amendment package is almost final).
- b. Non-structural provisions for the IBC and the IRC 2018 edition (Draft amendment package is almost final).
- c. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2018 edition (Review of the significant changes in progress and draft amendment package almost final).
- d. The Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) 2018 edition (Draft amendments in progress).
- e. The State Fire Code (Draft amendment package under review by the Subcommittee of Building Officials)
- f. The International Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code 2018 edition (Draft amendments finalized and will be incorporated into the IBC amendment package).
- g. The International Existing Building Code 2018 edition (Draft amendments under review and will be incorporated into the IBC amendment package).
- h. State Elevator Code (Standards under review and consulting with the fire departments).
- i. Energy Efficiency Code Coordination (Hawaii Energy chairs this committee).
- j. Boiler and Pressure Vessels

- k. The Green Building Code (There were no significant changes in the International Green Construction Code from the 2015 to the 2018 editions).
- l. Health Care Facility Guidelines
- m. The Mechanical Code (not active)
- n. Communication and Training
- o. Council membership with the International Code Council

The SBCC was unsuccessful in obtaining a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant that would have provided support in the updated, high-resolution wind maps that would be incorporated in the amendments to the International Building Code 2012 edition. This code is necessary to modernize Hawaii codes for hurricane, tsunami, and earthquake resistive standards and compliance with the FEMA updated disaster relief grant policy changes.

Code training was provided during the year on the following:

- The International Energy Conservation Code
- The International Existing Building Code

There were numerous discussions on using the International Plumbing Code as an alternative to the UPC. The SBCC decided to have the investigative committee propose specific amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code that are more efficient or cost effective than the provisions in the UPC.

Annual operating costs of the Council 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. **Since its inception in 2007, the SBCC has not had funding for personnel or operating costs. Besides reviewing national codes and standards, volunteer members are tasked with responding to code inquiries, submitting legislative testimony, and preparing and finalizing meeting agendas and minutes.**