

Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

State of Hawaii  
Department of Accounting and General Services  
State Building Code Council  
State Building Code Council (SBCC) Meeting

Proposed Amendments to the Hawaii State Energy Conservation Code  
Tuesday, September 15, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

Aloha Members of the State Building Code Council:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) **strongly opposes** the adoption of State Energy Conservation Code amendments, especially the electric vehicle requirements, provided by Chair Howard Wiig in an e-mail dated September 7, 2020.

PRP has been actively working with affordable housing stakeholders and community groups, at both the state and county levels, to address the shortage of affordable housing in the State of Hawaii.

According to the 2019 Hawaii Housing Planning Study, the State of Hawaii needs 50,156 new homes over the next five years (2020-2025) to satisfy its housing demand. In 2020, the Aloha United Way commissioned ALICE IN HAWAII: A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP STUDY. According to the latest ALICE data (2018 Point-in-Time-Data), an astonishing 42% of total households in the State of Hawaii struggle to afford basic household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology)—this was before COVID-19. Given the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and the dire need for more housing, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) should not adopt policies that will impose costly requirements on housing projects in the State of Hawaii, especially affordable housing projects—these policies will increase the construction costs of housing, which will ultimately be passed on to the buyer who is already struggling to make ends meet during these difficult times.

Given the above, PRP respectfully requests that the SBCC not adopt Chair Wiig's proposed amendments.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments.

