

HAWAII OPERATING ENGINEERS INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND



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*Uniting our strengths and working together
for a better tomorrow.*

November 11, 2020

Department of Accounting and General Services
State Building Code Council
Subcommittee of Building Officials Meeting

RE: Proposed Amendments to the Hawaii State Building Code

Aloha Members of the Subcommittee of Building Officials:

My name is Pane Meatoga III and I am the Community Liaison representing the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 3000 unionized members in heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction. **HOEISF supports the proposed amendments to the State Building Code recommended by Pacific Resource Partnership.**

HOEISF supports the construction of more affordable housing and believes that government can make it more feasible for all homebuilders to accomplish this by removing existing barriers in laws, rules and processes that frustrate the homebuilder's efforts to build more housing for Hawaii's residents. However, we do not support policies that give special preference to factory-built housing (FBH), which includes modular housing and other types of housing built within a factory, over homes built on site. As a matter of principle, it is inequitable for the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to adopt a special pathway for FBH, allowing FBH to bypass standard permitting and inspection requirements enforced by the building official, while traditional homebuilders must comply with these requirements when they construct any building or structure. Instead of adopting policies favoring FBH, government should find ways to improve the permitting and inspection processes for all homebuilders to bring more housing to the market quickly and ensure that everyone is treated equally under the law.

Mahalo,

Pane Meatoga III
Community Liaison
Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund