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State Building Code Council
Kalinimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Attention: Howard Wiig
State Building Code Council Chair

Reference: **SBCC Structural Amendments to the International Building Code**
Additional Services

Dear Howard,

The structural amendments in the 2018 SBCC contain several very subtle changes to the national standards (IBC 2018 and ASCE 7-16) in regards to wind and tsunami design that make the local amendments more stringent than the national standards. The engineers in our office include six SEAOH members, some of whom who have served on the Board of Directors and the Building Code Committee and were surprised by some of the final amendments submitted to the SBCC as SEAOH recommendations. As far as we are aware, there was no voting or membership consensus garnished prior to the submittal of these amendments.

- The Wind-Borne debris requirements have been modified to include areas of lower risk to be included in these requirements. This is contrary to both the national standards and wind-borne debris regions established by the City & County of Honolulu Building Department in the 2006 amendments.
- The Tsunami requirements were modified to mandate lower Risk Category buildings to be designed to an Essential Building 2,500 year event. It is our understanding that this has been removed from the 2018 SBCC but if there is some testimony to amend this back in, we would not support that.

Please note that we do not agree with these amendments and have found them to add substantial cost to the construction. Of particular concern is their impact on affordable housing where cost increases have made some projects financially unfeasible to build.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Baldrige, PE, SE, LEED AP
for Baldrige & Associates Structural Engineering, Inc.