



| *Building Homes, Enriching Communities, Changing Lives*

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Honorable House Representative Luke A. Evslin  
Chair, House Committee on Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 427  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: House Bill (HB) 1725 - SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Luke A. Evslin:

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is pleased to support House Bill (HB) 1725, a bill relating to building code reform in the State of Hawaii. This bill represents a significant step forward in addressing critical issues that impact construction projects, housing affordability, and safety standards across the state.

This measure works to prevent the costly redesigns, rework, and delays caused by mid-project building and energy code changes that have historically burdened construction projects and contributed to Hawaii's housing crisis. For example, the cost of going from the 2009 to 2012 code cycle was up to \$3,330, and the cost of the 2018 to 2021 code cycle was up to \$15,000<sup>1</sup>, and from 2021 to 2024, the estimate is up to \$10,000 per door.<sup>2</sup> Thus, many States do not change their codes with such frequency, which allows home builders the opportunity to manage costs and deliver high-quality new homes, without affecting home construction safety or integrity.

According to the most recent studies, the average cost of vertical construction alone in the United States accounts for about 64% of a new home's sales price, not considering finished lot, land price, and holding, planning, and design costs. With regulatory costs including a two-year code cycle, accounting for roughly \$94,000 per home, and in places like California and Hawaii, well over \$100,000+ in additional costs; homeownership is becoming further unattainable.

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<sup>1</sup> [2021-2024-iecc-added-construction-costs.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> [2024-iecc-cost-analysis-hirl.pdf](#)



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Home builders across the country want to build homes and enrich communities, and we believe this bill works to create pathways by allowing the local code officials and builders to focus on building safe communities together.

As building codes get updated at a rapid rate, it affects both local code enforcers and builders to learn the new codes, develop educational tools to roll it out to the industry that houses 28 different trades, who are the roofer, carpenter, electrician, plumber, framer, etc. Under this piece of legislation, trades will have ample time to catch up with building code updates, and the industry will not further lose construction trade professionals who take to build a home.

Importantly, HB 1725 will align Hawai'i with other states like California, Oregon, and Illinois when it comes to moving from a 2-year adoption building code cycle to a 6-year cycle or a pause of 6 years that will assist in addressing the housing crisis by promoting more home building, bringing business to the State of Hawai'i, and lessening the challenge and burden on local code officials who cannot keep up with the constant demand of learning new codes that get rolled in and its effect on staff shortages that are incredibly important to the approval of the development process.

NAHB believes that House Bill 1725 is a thoughtful and necessary measure to address the challenges facing Hawaii's construction industry and housing market. With these reasons, we respectfully request your support for this bill to help create a more predictable, efficient, and affordable building code system that benefits the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl Eckhart".

Karl Eckhart,

Vice President, State and Local Government Affairs