



2023 Board of Directors/Officers:

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December 15, 2023

RE: SEAOH Position on Proposed Bill 65

Attention: Dawn Takeuchi Apuna, Director
Department of Planning and Permitting
City and County of Honolulu
650 S King Street, 7th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Apuna,

Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH) held a Special Voting Meeting on December 6, 2023 to specifically discuss and vote on the proposed revisions to Section 1615 of the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) for use in the upcoming adoption of the City and County Building Code. This is part of Bill 65, currently under consideration by the legislature. The Special Voting Meeting determined that SEAOH membership is against the proposed amendments.

The decision to exclude the proposed application of tsunami design requirements to Risk Category II buildings is in line with the standard recommendations in the model code (2018 International Building Code) and it is not prudent to recommend more stringent design requirements for construction in the City and County of Honolulu without thorough study and deliberation both internally within SEAOH and externally with other Engineering, Construction, and Developer industry partners. As the inclusion of tsunami design requirements to Risk Category II buildings would have an impact on construction cost of affected buildings, additional vetting of the proposed amendments are required to ensure that any additional requirements above and beyond the model code are reasonable and to minimize the risk of unintended consequences that may arise from a premature issuance.

If you have any questions, please contact SEAOH at info@seaoh.org.

Respectfully,

SEAOH Membership