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Below you can find links to [Building Codes](#) and [Authorities Having Jurisdiction](#) for the state of Hawaii. To change to another state, click on the map to the right.

This information is obtained directly from the source -- the city, county and state building departments that issue these codes. If you find an error, please send an e-mail with the updated information to RCDWebmaster@ReedBusiness.com.

Notes Concerning Hawaii Building Codes

- Hawaii has very minimal state-wide building codes. Codes are adopted and enforced by each specific county.

Hawaii Building Codes

Code Type	Code Model	Amendment Contact
Building/Dwelling Code	State Building Code (IBC 2006)	
Structural Code	State Building Code (IBC 2006)	
Plumbing Code	State Plumbing Code (UPC 2006)	
Mechanical Code	Administrative Rules Title 11, Chapter 39, Air Conditioning & Ventilating Applies to all public buildings	Jerry Haruno, (808) 586-4701
Electrical Code	State Electric Code (NEC 2008) ✓	N/A
Fire/Life Safety Code	Hawaii State Fire & Life Safety Code (2010) (NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code 2006) Applies to all buildings except single family dwellings. Adoption at the local level is voluntary.	Building Dept. (808) 586-0526

*DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION
650 S. KEEH STREET
808-768-8431
-8239 (ELECT)*

Accessibility Code	ADAAG	No amendments
	Applies as a mandatory minimum to public buildings and facilities	
Energy Code	ASHRAE 90.1 (Hawaii Model Energy Code) (IECC 2006) ✓	Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Energy, Resources, and Technology Division , (808) 586-2423
	Mandatory for state-owned buildings	
Gas Code	NFPA 54, 1988 (State Model Fire Code)	Bookstore, (808) 523-4780
	Elective for all buildings	
Public Health Code	Hawaii Department of Health, Administrative Rules, Title 11	Online

Hawaii Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

Authorities Having Jurisdiction are those government officials who are the final authority on questions in a particular area (or jurisdiction).

Jurisdictional Area	Contact
Mechanical	Sanitation Branch Phone: (808) 586-8000 Fax: (808) 586-4729 Ben Gorospe, Jr.
Accessibility	Access Coordinator, Architectural Access Committee Phone: (808) 586-8128 Fax: (808) 586-8219
Energy	DBEDT Phone: (808) 587-2423 Fax: (808) 587-2790
Environmental	Department of Land & Natural Resources
Health Department	Hawaii Department of Health
Fire Marshal	State Fire Council Phone: (808) 831-7771
Transportation	Dept. of Transportation
Boiler Inspector	Boiler/Elevator Inspection, HI OSHA Div. Phone: (808) 586-9141 Fax: (808) 586-9104
Elevator Inspector	Boiler/Elevator Inspection, HI OSHA Div. Phone: (808) 586-9141 Fax: (808) 586-9104

Chapter 16

BUILDING CODE

Articles:

- (1. Adoption of the Uniform Building Code. Repealed by Ord. 07-22)
- 1. Adoption of the International Building Code and International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings
- 2. Relocation of Buildings
- 3. Factory-Built Buildings
- 4. Thatched Material on Exterior of Building--Protection Against Exposure Fires
- 5. Energy Conservation
- 6. Swimming Pools
- 7. Public Swimming Pools
- 8. Termite-Infested Lumber
- (9. Equal Access for Persons with Disabilities. Repealed by Ord. 97-16)
- 9. Reserved
- 10. Violations and Penalties
- 11. Regulations Within Flood Hazard Districts and Development Adjacent to Drainage Facilities
- 12. Indigenous Hawaiian Architecture

(Article 1. Adoption of the Uniform Building Code. Repealed by Ord. 07-22)

Article 1. Adoption of the International Building Code and International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings

Sections:

16-1.1 *add new* International Building Code.

Sec. 16-1.1 *add new* International Building Code.

The 2003 edition of the International Building Code is by reference incorporated herein and made a part hereof, subject to the following amendments.

- (1) Amending Section 101.1. Section 101.1 is amended to read:

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be part of the Building Code of the City and County of Honolulu, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

- (2) Amending Section 101.2. Section 101.2 is amended to read:

101.2 Scope. The provisions of this code shall apply to the construction, alteration, moving, demolition, replacement, repair, and use of any building or structure within this jurisdiction inland of the shoreline, except where located primarily in a public way, public utility towers and poles, mechanical equipment not specifically regulated in this code, and hydraulic flood control structures.

EXCEPTIONS:

- 1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than two stories high with separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall be permitted to comply with the International Residential Code.
- 2. Existing buildings undergoing repair, alterations or additions and change of occupancy shall be permitted to comply with the International Existing Building Code.

(Sec. 17-4.2, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.); Am. Ord. 95-29, 99-59)

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Article 5. Standards

Sections:

- 17-5.1 Standards for electrical work—Compliance.
- 17-5.2 Compliance with state statutes.

Sec. 17-5.1 Standards for electrical work—Compliance.

- (a) ~~Adoption of the National Electrical Code.~~ The National Electrical Code, 2008 Edition, copyrighted 2007 by the National Fire Protection Association, One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471, is adopted by reference and made a part hereof. Three copies of said code shall be kept on file and be available for public inspection in the city clerk's office. The scope, technical specifications and exemptions set forth in said code are adopted as a standard for electrical work covered by this chapter, provided there are no specific provisions in any other section of this chapter covering the particular matter.
- (b) Compliance Required. No person shall do or cause to be done any electrical work which does not comply with the provisions of this code.

(Sec. 17-5.1, R.O. 1978 (1987 Supp. to 1983 Ed.); Am. Ord. 90-56, 93-76, 96-37, 99-59, 02-53, 05-032, 09-29)

Sec. 17-5.2 Compliance with state statutes.

No person shall perform any work covered by this code in violation of the provisions of HRS Chapter 448E. (Sec. 17-5.2, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.))

Article 6. Electrical Work Within Flood Hazard Districts and Developments Adjacent to Drainage Facilities

Sections:

- 17-6.1 Applicability.
- 17-6.2 Definitions.
- 17-6.3 Requirements.

Sec. 17-6.1 Applicability.

- (a) General.
 - (1) The provisions contained in this article are applicable to the construction of all new electrical systems, renovations and major alterations, additions or reconstruction of existing electrical systems within the flood hazard district as established on the flood boundary and floodway maps and flood insurance rate maps, and any amendments by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, on file with the department of land utilization, City and County of Honolulu.
 - (2) These provisions shall also apply to developments adjacent to drainage facilities outside the flood hazard district which are determined to be within a floodway area or a flood fringe area in accordance with Section 21-9.10-9. *- adjacent to property w/ streams, rivers or drainage facilities*
- (b) Existing Electrical Systems. Any electrical system thereof which was lawful before the effective date of this article but which is not in conformity with the provisions of this article *may be continued subject to the provisions of Section 21-9.10-12. (NOW CONSIDERED) - note to upgrade 7, const.*
- (c) Exemption. The provisions contained herein shall not apply:
 - (1) To electrical systems serving buildings and structures exempted from the flood hazard district provisions under Section 21-9.10-13; and *(REPEALED)*
 - (2) To electrical systems serving buildings and structures which have been granted a flood hazard variance under the provisions of Section 21-9.10-11. *VARIANCE*

(Sec. 17-6.1, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.); Am. Ord. 96-58)

Sec. 17-6.2 Definitions.

- ~ small < 1/2 acre*
- ~ slumbers*
- ~ historical street*
- ~ approved by code 00.*
- ~ both houses / canoe house*
- ~ cut against*

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(a) For the purpose of this article, the following terms shall be as defined in Article 10, Chapter 21, ROH 1990, as amended:

- "Flood elevation";
- "Flood fringe";
- "Flood hazard district";
- "Flood proof";
- "Floodway"; and
- "Regulatory flood."

(b) For the purpose of this article, the following words and terms are also defined:

- "Ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)" means a device or equipment which disconnects all ungrounded conductors of the faulted circuit to protect people from electrical shocks.
- "Ground-fault protector (GFP)" means a device or equipment which disconnects all ungrounded conductors of the faulted circuit to protect wiring and equipment from damage.

(Sec. 17-6.2, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.))

Sec. 17-6.3 Requirements.

For electrical work on projects subject to the provisions of this article, the provisions of this section shall supplement the requirements of Section 17-5.1. (2008 NEC)

- (a) Main Power Service. The incoming main commercial power service equipment, including all metering equipment, shall be located above the regulatory flood elevation or in a waterproof enclosure or barrier with GFP on the main disconnecting means.
- (b) Stationary and Portable Equipment. Switchgear, control centers, transformers, distribution and power or lighting panels shall be located above the regulatory flood elevation or in a waterproof enclosure or barrier with GFP on the main disconnecting means. Stationary and portable or movable electrical equipment shall be permitted to be located below the regulatory flood elevation provided that the circuit and equipment shall be protected with GFCI, except sump pump and its circuit may be without GFCI. In cases where GFCI cannot be installed because of amperage size or usage, GFP shall be installed.
- (c) Normal and Emergency Lighting Circuits. All normal lighting circuits extending into areas below the regulatory flood elevation shall be energized from a common distribution panel located above the regulatory flood elevation or in a waterproof enclosure or barrier with GFP. All emergency lighting circuits into areas below the regulatory flood elevation shall be energized from an independent distribution panel also located above the regulatory flood elevation or in a waterproof enclosure or barrier with GFP.
- (d) Emergency Lighting Requirements. All components of emergency lighting systems installed below the regulatory flood elevation shall be so located that no component of the emergency lighting system is within reach of personnel working at floor level in the areas where emergency lighting systems are utilized unless the emergency lighting circuits are provided with GFCI. The emergency lighting may be furnished by a storage battery, prime mover-generator system, a separate commercial power supply system, the same commercial power system, or a combination thereof, subject to the following provisions:
 - (1) Storage Battery (including battery operated lighting units). Battery operated lighting units shall be completely self-contained and shall indicate the state of charge of the battery at all times. Lighting units shall automatically provide light when the normal source of lighting in the areas is de-energized.
 - (2) Separate Commercial Power Supply System. This source of energy shall have a degree of reliability satisfactory to the building official. A system fed from a transformer other than that used for the regular supply and not on the same poles (except service pole) as the regular supply is deemed to have the required degree of reliability. A secondary circuit fed from the same primary circuit as the regular supply shall be regarded as a separate system.
 - (3) Separate Commercial Power Supply System. The system shall be an underground secondary system and a separate service shall be connected on the line side of that service switch or breaker of the regular service.
- (e) Receptacle Circuits Below Regulatory Flood Elevation. Receptacle circuits shall be permitted to be installed below the regulatory flood elevation, provided that these circuits shall be protected with GFCI.

(Sec. 17-6.3, R.O. 1978 (1983 Ed.))

WATER PROOF
= NEMA 3R
MIN.

P ~ GFP
DC → .5 to 5A

ELECTRICAL
DISTRIBUTION
EQUIPMENT (AC)
GFCI - AC + Personnel
Protection
- .5mA

"IECC" means the ICC, International Energy Conservation Code, 2006 Edition, as copyrighted by the International Code Council.

"Section" means a section of a chapter of the International Energy Conservation Code.
(Added by Ord. 09-30)

Article 3. Adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code

Sections:

Sec. 32-3.1 Adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Sec. 32-3.1 Adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code.

The "International Energy Conservation Code, 2006 Edition." as copyrighted and published in 2006 by the International Code Council, Incorporated, 500 New Jersey Avenue, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001, is adopted by reference and made a part of this chapter. This incorporation by reference includes all parts of the International Energy Conservation Code, subject to the amendments hereinafter set forth. The appendices of the ICC, IECC are not adopted except as provided in this chapter. (Added by Ord. 09-30)

Article 4. Amendments to the 2006 ICC International Energy Conservation Code

- (1) Amending Section 101.1. Section 101.1 is amended to read as follows:

101.1 Title. This code shall be known as the Building Energy Conservation Code of the City and County of Honolulu, and shall be cited as such. It is referred to herein as "this code."

- (2) Amending Section 101.5.2. Section 101.5.2 is amended to read as follows:

101.5.2 Low Energy Buildings. The following buildings, or portions thereof, separated from the remainder of the building by building thermal envelope assemblies complying with this code shall be exempt from the building thermal envelope provisions of this code:

1. Conditioned spaces with a peak design rate of energy usage less than 3.4 Btu/h·ft² (10.7 W/m²) or 1.0 watt/ft² (10.7 W/m²) of floor area for space conditioning purposes.
2. Unconditioned spaces that are non-habitable spaces.

- (3) Amending Section 104.1. Section 104.1 is amended to read as follows: