REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

Voting Members:
Matt Weyer, Chair; Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Val A. Okimoto, Augie Tulba

Committee Meeting Held
October 23, 2024

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health, which considered Bill 51 (2024) entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ADAPTIVE REUSE,"

which passed first reading at the September 4, 2024 Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu to safely and sustainably increase the supply of housing by allowing for the adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings.

Your Committee considered and approved a CD1 version of the bill that makes the following amendments:

A. In SECTION 2 of the bill:

1. Amends proposed new ROH Section 16A-4.4(e)(3) and (4) by replacing references to the "building code" (meaning the City Building Code) with the "International Building Code, as published by the International Code Council;"

2. Amends proposed new ROH Section 16A-4.4(e)(5) by deleting the duplicate mechanical ventilation system requirement;

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3. Amends proposed new ROH Section 16A-4.4(e)(6) by deleting the requirement for a relocation plan in the event of mechanical ventilation failure; and

4. Adds a proposed new ROH Section 16A-4.4(f) providing that:

   "Notwithstanding any requirements of the land use ordinance and subdivision ordinance, the retrofitting and repurposing of non-residential buildings or structures for multi-family dwelling purposes, as required of the city pursuant to Act 37, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, may proceed as set forth in this section."

B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 51 (2024), as amended herein, and recommends that it pass second reading, be scheduled for a public hearing, and be referred back to Committee in the form attached hereto as BILL 51 (2024), CD1. (Ayes: Dos Santos-Tam, Okimoto, Tulba, Weyer – 4; Noes: None; Absent: Kia'āina – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

ADOPTED ON NOV 7 2024

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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **51 (2024), CD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO ADAPTIVE REUSE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings. The City Council ("Council") finds that Act 37, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024 ("Act 37"), allows residential uses in areas zoned for commercial use. Act 37, among other things, amended Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require that:

> "No later than January 1, 2025, each county shall adopt or amend its ordinances to allow for adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings in the county's building code; provided that adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings shall be allowed pursuant to this section until each county adopts or amends its ordinances in accordance with this section."

The Council further finds that if such an ordinance is not enacted before the January 1, 2025, deadline, the adaptive reuse of commercial buildings shall be allowed with limited regulation, potentially negatively impacting the health and safety of Honolulu residents.

Accordingly, the purpose of this ordinance is to safely and sustainably increase the supply of housing, including by amending the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu to allow for the adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings.

SECTION 2. Section 16A-4.4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 16A-4.4 Light—Ventilation.

(a) *Natural light and ventilation.*

(1) All guest rooms and habitable rooms within a dwelling unit or congregate residence [~~shall~~] must be provided with natural light by means of windows or skylights with an area of not less than one-tenth of the floor area of such rooms with a minimum of 10 square feet. Not less than one-half of the required window or skylight area [~~shall~~] must be openable to provide natural ventilation.

(2) All bathrooms, water closet compartments, laundry rooms, and similar rooms [~~shall~~] must be provided with natural ventilation by means of windows with an openable area not less than one-twentieth of the floor area of such rooms with a minimum of 1.5 square feet.

(b) *Origin.*

(1) Required windows [~~shall~~] must open directly onto the public way or a yard or court located on the same lot as the building.

Exception: required windows may open into a roofed porch or lanai where the porch or lanai:

(A) Abuts a public way, yard, or court;

(B) Has a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet; and

(C) Has the longer side at least 50 percent open and unobstructed. The area of fixed openings in open guardrails of minimum height may be credited for this requirement.

(2) A required window in a service room may open into a vent shaft that is open and unobstructed to the sky and not less than 4 feet in least dimension. No vent shaft [~~shall~~] may extend through more than two stories.

(3) For the purpose of determining light and ventilation requirements, any room may be considered as a portion of an adjoining room when at least one-half of the area of the common wall is open and unobstructed and provides an opening of not less than one-tenth of the floor area of the interior room or 25 square feet, whichever is greater.

(c) *Mechanical ventilation.*

(1) In lieu of required openable windows for natural ventilation, a mechanical ventilation system may be provided for all spaces except bedrooms.

(2) Mechanical ventilation systems for bathrooms containing a bathtub or shower or combination thereof, laundry rooms, and similar rooms, [~~shall~~] must provide not less than five air changes per hour and [~~shall~~] must be connected directly to the outside. The point of discharge of exhaust air

[~~shall~~] must be at least 3 feet from any opening [~~which~~] that allows air entry into occupied portions of the building.

(3) Mechanical ventilation systems for all habitable rooms, except bedrooms, and public corridors [~~shall~~] must be capable of providing not less than two air changes per hour. At least one-fifth of the air supply [~~shall~~] must be taken from the outside.

(4) All bathrooms, lavatories, and toilet compartments that are ventilated by mechanical ventilation [~~shall~~] must have fixed openings, from adjacent rooms or corridors or from other approved sources, [~~which~~] that are sufficient to provide an inflow of air necessary to make exhaust ventilation effective. The exhaust air from bathrooms, lavatories, and toilet compartments [~~shall~~] may not be recirculated. Exhaust duct systems for toilet compartments and bathrooms [~~shall~~] must be separate from the exhaust duct systems for other portions of a building.

(5) Toilet compartments, bathrooms, and kitchens ventilated in accordance with this subsection may be provided with artificial light. When a water closet in a bathroom or toilet compartment is completely enclosed by partitions, such enclosure [~~shall~~] must be separately lighted and ventilated.

(6) Systems of mechanical ventilation installed to comply with this code [~~shall~~] must be kept in good working order and in continuous operation at all times during occupancy of the room served by such system. All openings to ventilators [~~shall~~] must be [~~ratproofed.~~] rat-proofed.

(d) *Hallways.* All public hallways, stairs, and other exitways [~~shall~~] must be adequately lighted at all times in accordance with the building code.

(e) *Applicability.* Except as provided in this subsection, this section does not apply to the retrofitting and repurposing of non-residential buildings or structures for multi-family dwelling purposes; provided that:

(1) "Multi-family dwelling" has the same meaning as defined in § 21-10.1;

(2) The retrofitting or repurposing does not include the rehabilitation of any existing dwelling units other than those allowed by way of this section;

(3) Every space intended for human habitation must comply with the natural light or artificial lighting standards and requirements of the International Building Code, as published by the International Code Council;

(4) Each dwelling unit must be provided with natural ventilation or mechanical ventilation in accordance with the standards and requirements of the International Building Code, as published by the International Code Council;

(5) Dwelling units exclusively reliant on mechanical ventilation shall be safeguarded with an on-site emergency power system;

(6) The multi-family dwelling owner or manager, as applicable, shall develop and maintain an evacuation plan; and

(7) Any purchase or rental agreement for a dwelling unit reliant on mechanical ventilation shall include notice to the purchaser or renter of the potential effects to the unit and its occupants should the mechanical ventilation fail.

(f) *Land use ordinance and subdivision ordinance requirements.* Notwithstanding any requirements of the land use ordinance and subdivision ordinance, the retrofitting and repurposing of non-residential buildings or structures for multi-family dwelling purposes, as required of the city pursuant to Act 37, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, may proceed as set forth in this section."

SECTION 3. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2025; provided that: (a) this ordinance does not affect any building permits that had been issued prior to the effective date of this ordinance; and (b) all building permit applications received prior to the effective date of this ordinance and deemed complete for processing by the department of planning and permitting must be processed in accordance with Section 16A-4.4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, in the form in which it read prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

Matt Weyer

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

August 29, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ____.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:
Housing Code; Natural Light; Artificial Lighting; Ventilation; Adaptive Reuse; Multi-family Dwelling; International Building Code

Description:
Adds lighting and ventilation standards with respect to the adaptive reuse of commercial buildings. Provides for an effective date of January 1, 2025; provided that: (a) the ordinance does not affect any building permits that had been issued prior to the effective date of this ordinance; and (b) all building permit applications received prior to the effective date of the ordinance and deemed complete for processing by the Department of Planning and Permitting must be processed in accordance with Section 16A-4.4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, in the form in which it read prior to the effective date of the ordinance.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.