



**Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States of America
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs**

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**Julio U.B. King
Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Contractors, Trades and Crafts**

**Testimony
Before the
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**Milton E. Potter, Chair
Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning**

An Act amending Title 29, chapter 5 Virgin Islands Code, relating to building codes to provide for adoption of nationally recognized consensus-based codes and standards and amendments to such codes that are in the best interests of the territory, and to provide for clarifications to the Virgin Islands building code.

January 30, 2024

“Serving Businesses & Assisting, Educating and Protecting Consumers”

Good Day Honorable Senator Milton E. Potter, Committee Chair, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands' Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning, Committee Senators present, non-Committee Senators present, and the listening and viewing audience.

My name is Julio U.B. King, Chairman for the Virgin Islands Board of Contractors, Trades and Crafts.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify before the 35th Legislature on an Act amending Title 29, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 5 relating to building codes to provide for the adoption of nationally recognized consensus-based codes and standards and amendments to such codes that are in the best interests of the Virgin Islands, and to provide clarifications to the Virgin Islands building code.

The adoption of nationally recognized consensus-based codes and standards, as proposed in Bill 35-0172, is a crucial step towards aligning the Virgin Islands with industry best practices. By integrating these widely accepted codes and standards into our local building regulations, we can ensure that our community benefits from the latest advancements in construction technology and safety measures. This not only enhances the overall quality of construction projects but also provides a solid foundation for disaster preparedness and recovery efforts.

I believe the clarifications proposed in Bill 35-0172 to the Virgin Islands building code are a welcome initiative. Clear and concise regulations are instrumental in facilitating compliance and enforcement, ultimately contributing to the safety and well-being of our residents. I believe that these clarifications will provide much-needed guidance to builders, architects, and other stakeholders in navigating the regulatory landscape, leading to improved compliance and accountability.

Any reference to Title 29 Ch. 5 shall be a part of any future amendment to the Contractors, Trades, & Crafts code. The only impact on licensing statutes is references building standards in 27 VIC 340 which have always been inconsistent with the existing building code.

In conclusion, I fully support these amendments as the strengthening of our building codes, in line with nationally recognized building codes, will be in the best interests of the people of the Virgin Islands by better protecting their lives and property from natural hazards prevalent here in the territory.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these amendments. We stand ready to answer any questions this Body may have.