

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXPEDITIOUSLY PROPOSE OPTIONS TO TEMPORARILY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LIVE-ABOARD AND HOUSEBOAT PERMITS AND OPTIONS TO DEVELOP TEMPORARY MICRO-HOUSING AT OR NEAR HARBORS AND STATE WATERS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing a severe housing crisis
2 and residents of the island of Maui are facing even more dire
3 housing options, thus compelling the State to explore creative
4 solutions and take action urgently to provide additional
5 housing; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Economic Research Organization of the
8 University of Hawai'i reported in its September 2023 Forecast for
9 the State of Hawai'i that "[t]he fire in Lahaina displaced
10 thousands of families, and rebuilding homes will take many
11 years. Homes made up 86% of the roughly 2,200 lost structures,
12 about 3% of Maui's housing stock. The State and County are
13 working to find longer-term housing for about 7,000 displaced
14 persons that are now being accommodated in hotels, timeshares,
15 and TVRs. Recovery workers and an eventual army of construction
16 laborers must also be housed. Until substantial rebuilding can
17 be accomplished, these needs will press hard on the already
18 tight and expensive Maui housing market."; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State, through the Department of Land and
21 Natural Resources, manages twenty recreational harbors including
22 three on Maui (at Kahului, Lāhainā, and Mā'alaea) and the
23 Department of Transportation manages ten commercial harbors
24 including two on Maui (at Hāna and Kahului); and
25

26 WHEREAS, the State has, for decades, allowed individuals to
27 live on recreational boats docked at State harbors through a
28 permit system known as live-aboard permits; and
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30 WHEREAS, the number of live-aboard permits is currently
31 capped at one hundred twenty-nine berths for Ala Wai Boat Harbor
32 and thirty-five berths for Ke'ehi Boat Harbor, both on O'ahu, and



1 no live-aboard permits are issued for the other harbors nor for
2 any houseboats; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are hundreds more berths available at state
5 harbors as well as other areas at the harbors and in state
6 waters where live-aboards, houseboats, and other types of
7 habitable barges could be allowed; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are numerous cities and states in the United
10 States that allow people to live on boats, houseboats, and other
11 types of floating residences; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 2018, twenty micro-housing units were built in
14 thirty days in Pāhoa, Hawai‘i, to temporarily house seniors and
15 families with children whose homes had been damaged or destroyed
16 by a Kilauea volcano eruption; and

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18 WHEREAS, micro-housing units on a temporary basis could be
19 placed on state land at or near state harbors and state waters;
20 now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
24 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the
25 Department of Transportation are requested to expeditiously
26 research and propose options to temporarily increase the number
27 of live-aboard permits issued for boats, houseboats, and
28 habitable barges for state harbors and in state waters; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation are
32 requested to expeditiously research and propose options to
33 develop temporary micro-housing at or near state harbors and
34 state waters; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
37 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation are
38 requested to explore options to partner with private businesses
39 and organizations to design and build temporary micro-housing
40 units for placement at or near state harbors and state waters;
41 and

42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Land and Natural Resources and Director of Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: _____

