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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT, AMEND, OR  
UPDATE THE STATE BUILDING CODE TO AUTHORIZE POINT ACCESS  
BLOCK CONSTRUCTION FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS UP TO SIX  
STORIES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, existing building code requirements effectively  
2 mandate a double-loaded corridor building, where two stairways  
3 both access a corridor in the middle of the building with units  
4 built on both sides; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, this generally results in most dwelling units in a  
7 double-loaded corridor building being single aspect, meaning  
8 daylight only comes from the single exterior wall with little to  
9 no cross ventilation; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, buildings with point access blocks are compact  
12 single stair buildings with dwellings that are centered around a  
13 stairway and elevator core and have a single point of access  
14 vertical corridor leading to the upper levels; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, point access blocks provide compact, low-carbon,  
17 and livable multifamily housing and offer a greater variety of  
18 architecture, as well as unit types and sizes, even on small  
19 urban lots; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, dwelling units in buildings with double-loaded  
22 corridors typically have smaller units, whereas floor plans for  
23 buildings with point access blocks tend to be very flexible,  
24 with a higher proportion of units ranging from two- to four-  
25 bedrooms; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, point access blocks offer greater floor plan  
28 efficiency, allowing developers to use a greater proportion of



1 the structure for housing units and save money on the  
2 construction of extra stairways and connecting hallways; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, buildings with point access blocks provide better  
5 lighting and ventilation because dwelling units in these  
6 buildings tend to be situated either on a corner or have windows  
7 on opposite sides of the unit, which can reduce the use of air  
8 conditioning; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, with modern fire suppressant technology such as  
11 sprinklers, the devastating residential fires that prompted the  
12 building code to require a second access point decades ago are  
13 increasingly rare; and  
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15 WHEREAS, nations with widespread use of point access  
16 blocks, such as Austria, France, and Germany, have much lower  
17 fire death rates than the United States; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu amended its  
20 building code to allow for point access block construction up to  
21 six stories; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, developing buildings with point access blocks  
24 presents an innovative solution to increasing the housing supply  
25 and can efficiently utilize the State's limited land area by  
26 creating compact buildings with environmentally friendly floor  
27 plans; now, therefore,  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
31 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the State Building Code  
32 Council is requested to adopt, amend, or update the State  
33 Building Code to authorize point access block construction for  
34 residential buildings up to six stories in the State; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
38 State Building Code Council.  
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40  
41



H.C.R. NO. 66

OFFERED BY: 211 C.

MAR - 6 2025

