
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON HOUSING FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is in need of more affordable housing for
2 low- and moderate-income households; and
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4 WHEREAS, the 2006 report of the Joint Legislative Housing
5 and Homeless Task Force established by Act 196, Session Laws of
6 Hawaii 2005, states that an estimated 44,190 housing units are
7 projected to be needed statewide between 2005-2009; and
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9 WHEREAS, most essential workers, that is, teachers, police
10 officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders would be
11 considered moderate-income individuals; and
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13 WHEREAS, even households and individuals with moderate
14 incomes have been priced out of Hawaii's housing market and are
15 sometimes forced to move out of state to improve their lifestyle
16 and own their own homes; and
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18 WHEREAS, additionally, the State and counties have
19 experienced difficulty in recruiting and retaining essential
20 workers, particularly when other states actively recruit in
21 Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, the primary expense of most households is housing;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, in addition to the cost of housing and the loss of
27 essential workers to other states, some rural areas of the state
28 have difficulty recruiting and retaining essential workers
29 because of the remote location and difficult commute; and



1 WHEREAS, providing affordable housing to Hawaii's essential
2 workers would solve several problems, including improving
3 retention of these workers; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2007, that the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
8 Corporation (HHFDC), in collaboration with the Department of
9 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, is requested to
10 conduct a study on housing for essential workers; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include, but
13 not be limited to:
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- 15 (1) The possibility of providing affordable housing for
16 essential workers;
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- 18 (2) Creating a mortgage loan assistance or loan
19 forgiveness program for essential workers;
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- 21 (3) Providing incentives specifically for essential
22 workers willing to work in a rural area experiencing
23 shortages of those workers;
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- 25 (4) Providing relocation costs; and
- 26
- 27 (5) Suggested legislation;
- 28

29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of HHFDC and
33 the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

