

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, the shortage of available housing in the State has
2 become a crisis that continues to worsen every year as the
3 demand for housing continues to grow far more rapidly than
4 supply; and

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6 WHEREAS, in addition, the cost of housing continues to grow
7 faster than the State's median income, resulting in more Hawaii
8 residents being priced out of the housing market; and

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10 WHEREAS, stable housing is the foundation for a strong
11 middle class; and

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13 WHEREAS, if the State fails to address this issue, more
14 residents will be forced to move away from Hawaii to obtain
15 housing they can afford; and

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17 WHEREAS, an October 2020 report from the University of
18 Hawaii Economic Research Organization warned that more Hawaii
19 residents were moving to the mainland in the wake of the
20 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, accelerating a
21 trend that was already occurring due to the State's high cost of
22 living and lack of affordable housing; and

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24 WHEREAS, although the housing shortage is widely recognized
25 statewide, the need for housing is of particularly great concern
26 to the residents of the County of Maui; and

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28 WHEREAS, as Hawaii rebuilds its economy from the COVID-19
29 pandemic, it is essential that the State use its limited
30 resources to efficiently and effectively grow the available
31 affordable housing inventory so that housing will be available
32 for the residents of the County of Maui and their families; and
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1 WHEREAS, better information is needed to understand how to
2 tackle the affordable housing shortage; and
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4 WHEREAS, policymakers need to know the number of housing
5 units and types of housing that are currently available, the
6 number of housing units that are currently being constructed,
7 and what future housing projects are currently being planned;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, moneys used to construct affordable housing comes
11 from a variety of sources, including federal, state, county, and
12 private sources; and
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14 WHEREAS, to create an effective housing plan, policymakers
15 must know how those different funding sources are being
16 allocated and utilized; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
20 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a
21 study regarding affordable housing in the County of Maui; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
24 Bureau is requested to include in the study:
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- 26 (1) A quantification of moneys expended by the County of
27 Maui for affordable housing;
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29 (2) The sources of funds expended, including the amount
30 from federal, state, county, and private sources;
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32 (3) The total number of available affordable housing units
33 in the County of Maui;
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35 (4) The total number of available housing units in the
36 County of Maui, including a breakdown by:
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38 (A) Number of single-family homes, further subdivided
39 by number of bedrooms; and
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41 (B) Number of condominium homes, further subdivided
42 by number of bedrooms;



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(5) The total number of housing units and residential developments that are planned to be constructed in the County of Maui, including what percentage of the units proposed to be built are considered affordable; and

(6) Whether there are policies in place that hinder the availability of affordable housing in the County of Maui; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau may consult with any person or agency in the preparation of the report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED every agency of the State and its political subdivisions are requested to provide to the Legislative Reference Bureau any specific data, information, and assistance that the Bureau requests for the purpose of the study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

OFFERED BY: J. Kalani Eglish

