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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
AND THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCILS, TO CREATE AN EXPEDITED  
PROCESS TO CONTRACT THE REVIEW OF PROPOSED AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING PROJECTS TO THIRD-PARTY CONSULTANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-  
2 19) pandemic led to an unprecedented economic crisis that  
3 decimated Hawai'i's economy and caused its gross domestic product  
4 to plummet; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the drastic decline in economic activity  
7 disproportionately affected the State's most vulnerable  
8 populations; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the forced shutdown of many sectors of the State's  
11 economy triggered mass layoffs and furloughs causing the State's  
12 seasonally adjusted unemployment to surge from 2.4 percent in  
13 March 2020 to a historical high of 22.3 percent in April 2020;  
14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, record unemployment, mass layoffs and furloughs,  
17 and increased daily expenses for Hawai'i residents exacerbated  
18 challenges already being faced by renter households due to  
19 historically high housing cost burdens; and

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21 WHEREAS, economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic  
22 exacerbated the burden on renter households, as more than eleven  
23 thousand Hawai'i tenants fell behind on rent payments and forty  
24 percent of rental tenants lost their jobs; and

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26 WHEREAS, while the dissemination of COVID-19 vaccines has  
27 allowed Hawai'i's economy to slowly rebound from the devastating



1 impacts of mass layoffs and economic shutdowns, data from the  
2 University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization showed that  
3 the number of individuals facing homelessness will rise; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the decline and cessation of COVID-19 pandemic-  
6 related aid, subsidies, and relief for Hawai'i's residents,  
7 including renter households, will increase significant  
8 challenges to households struggling to attain jobs, make  
9 payments on past due rent, and return to normal life; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in February 2022, inflation in the United States  
12 hit a record 7.5 percent, increasing the burden on Hawai'i  
13 residents who are continuing to struggle from the impacts of the  
14 COVID-19 pandemic; and  
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16 WHEREAS, it is imperative to mitigate the affordable  
17 housing crisis that is both ongoing and exacerbated by the  
18 effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore,  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
23 and Natural Resources, in consultation with the State Historic  
24 Preservation Division and the Island Burial Councils, is  
25 requested to create an expedited process to contract its review  
26 of proposed state projects, projects on privately-owned historic  
27 property, and projects affecting historic properties, to third-  
28 party consultants if the projects involve the development of  
29 affordable housing; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in creating the expedited  
32 process, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
33 requested to consider the following processes:  
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- 35 (1) Contracting a third-party consultant to conduct the  
36 review of proposed affordable housing projects if,  
37 after an initial evaluation, the Department of Land  
38 and Natural Resources is not able to provide its  
39 written concurrence or non-concurrence within sixty  
40 days of the filing of a request;  
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- 1 (2) Receiving pre-approval of the appropriate island  
2 burial council before contracting services with a  
3 third-party consultant;  
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- 5 (3) Contracting third-party consultants who meet the  
6 educational and experiences standards and  
7 qualifications for preservation professionals as  
8 determined by State Historic Preservation Division  
9 rules; and  
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- 11 (4) Requiring third-party consultants to provide a  
12 recommendation to the Department of Land and Natural  
13 Resources within thirty days of the filing of a  
14 request with the Department of Land and Natural  
15 Resources; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
18 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and  
19 recommendations regarding the expedited process, including any  
20 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
25 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State  
26 Historic Preservation Division; and Island Burial Councils of  
27 Hawaii, Kauai and Niihau, Maui and Lanai, Molokai, and Oahu.

