

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION AND THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCILS, TO CONTRACT 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 issues already being faced by renter households due to  
19 historically high housing cost burdens; and

20  
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

25  
26           WHEREAS, while the dissemination of COVID-19 vaccines has  
27 allowed Hawai'i's economy to slowly rebound from the devastating  
28 impacts of mass layoffs and economic shutdowns, data from the  
29 University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization showed that  
30 the number of individuals facing homelessness will rise; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, the decline and cessation of COVID-19 pandemic-  
2 related aid, subsidies, and relief for Hawai'i's residents,  
3 including renter households, will increase significant  
4 challenges to households struggling to attain jobs, make  
5 payments on past due rent, and return to normal life; and  
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7 WHEREAS, in February 2022, inflation in the United States  
8 hit a record 7.5 percent, increasing the burden on Hawai'i  
9 residents who are continuing to struggle from the impacts of the  
10 COVID-19 pandemic; and  
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12 WHEREAS, immediate action is imperative to mitigate the  
13 affordable housing crisis that is both ongoing and exacerbated  
14 by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
18 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through the  
19 State Historic Preservation Division, is requested to contract  
20 its review of proposed state projects, projects on privately  
21 owned historic property, and projects affecting historic  
22 properties to third party consultants if the projects involve  
23 the development of affordable housing; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after an initial evaluation, if  
26 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is not able to  
27 provide its written concurrence or non-concurrence within sixty  
28 days of the filing of the request, the Department of Land and  
29 Natural Resources is requested to contract a third-party  
30 consultant to conduct the review; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
33 Natural Resources is requested to receive pre-approval of the  
34 appropriate island burial council before contracting services  
35 with a third-party consultant; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
38 contract third-party consultants who meet the educational and  
39 experiences standards and qualifications for preservation  
40 professionals as determined by the State Historic Preservation  
41 Division Rules; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that third-party consultants are  
2 requested to provide a recommendation to the Department of Land  
3 and Natural Resources within thirty days of the filing of the  
4 request with the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
7 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and  
8 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
9 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
10 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
14 Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State Historic  
15 Preservation Division; Island Burial Councils of Hawaii, Kauai  
16 and Niihau, Maui and Lanai, Molokai, and Oahu.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

