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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 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
28 impacts of mass layoffs and economic shutdowns, data from the



1 University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization showed that  
2 the number of individuals facing homelessness will rise; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the decline and cessation of COVID-19 pandemic-  
5 related aid, subsidies, and relief for Hawai'i's residents,  
6 including renter households, will increase significant  
7 challenges to households struggling to attain jobs, make  
8 payments on past due rent, and return to normal life; and  
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10 WHEREAS, in February 2022, inflation in the United States  
11 hit a record 7.5 percent, increasing the burden on Hawai'i  
12 residents who are continuing to struggle from the impacts of the  
13 COVID-19 pandemic; and  
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15 WHEREAS, immediate action is imperative to mitigate the  
16 affordable housing crisis that is both ongoing and exacerbated  
17 by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
22 and Natural Resources, through the State Historic Preservation  
23 Division, is requested to contract its review of proposed state  
24 projects, projects on privately-owned historic property, and  
25 projects affecting historic properties to third-party  
26 consultants if the projects involve the development of  
27 affordable housing; and  
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after an initial evaluation, if  
30 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is not able to  
31 provide its written concurrence or non-concurrence within sixty  
32 days of the filing of the request, the Department of Land and  
33 Natural Resources is requested to contract a third-party  
34 consultant to conduct the review; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
37 Natural Resources is requested to receive pre-approval of the  
38 appropriate island burial council before contracting services  
39 with a third-party consultant; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
42 contract third-party consultants who meet the educational and



1 experiences standards and qualifications for preservation  
2 professionals as determined by the State Historic Preservation  
3 Division Rules; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that third-party consultants are  
6 requested to provide a recommendation to the Department of Land  
7 and Natural Resources within thirty days of the filing of the  
8 request with the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
11 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and  
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
13 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
14 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
18 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State  
19 Historic Preservation Division; and Island Burial Councils of  
20 Hawaii, Kauai and Niihau, Maui and Lanai, Molokai, and Oahu.

