
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR THE
ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

1 WHEREAS, a 2019 study by the Department of Business,
2 Economic Development, and Tourism found that the State will
3 require an additional 50,156 homes by the year 2025, with the
4 City and County of Honolulu requiring 22,168 new units, Hawaii
5 County requiring 13,303 new units, Maui County requiring 10,404
6 new units, and Kauai County requiring 4,281 new unit; and
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8 WHEREAS, there has been a lack of measurable progress at
9 the county level to enact policies that will stimulate housing
10 production to meet the projected demand; and
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12 WHEREAS, existing laws and county procedures regarding the
13 adoption and implementation of building codes impede the
14 building permit process; and
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16 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council is responsible for
17 establishing a state building code through the timely adoption
18 of national building codes, which is based on:
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- 20 (1) The state fire code, as adopted by the State Fire
21 Council;
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- 23 (2) The Uniform Plumbing Code;
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- 25 (3) The International Building Code, International
26 Residential Code, and International Energy
27 Conservation Code, as published by the International
28 Code Council;
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- 30 (4) The National Electrical Code, as published by the
31 National Fire Protection Association; and
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1 (5) Hawaii design standards implementing the criteria
 2 pursuant to Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii,
 3 2005, as applicable to emergency shelters and
 4 essential government facilities; and
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6 WHEREAS, the process to obtain a building permit in the
 7 State is often redundant, costly, and time consuming for
 8 builders and residents; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council should be required
 11 to take into account the experiences and climate of the current
 12 building industry, including economic impact on future buyers;
 13 now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 17 Session of 2023, that the Governor is requested to convene a
 18 task force to examine and make recommendations on the existing
 19 procedures for the adoption of the state building code; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 23 (1) Consider whether the current state building code
 24 adoption process is effective and relevant;
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- 26 (2) Consider whether county building codes should be
 27 eliminated in favor of a single statewide building
 28 code; and
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- 30 (3) Examine the extended time frame and financial impacts
 31 that building code adoption has on construction and
 32 housing prices in the State; and
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- 34 (4) Review educational programs for stakeholders on impact
 35 of building code changes; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 38 consist of the following individuals:

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- 40 (1) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, who is
 41 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task
 42 force;



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- 2 (2) The State Comptroller, or the State Comptroller's
- 3 designee;
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- 5 (3) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu's
- 6 Department of Planning and Permitting, or the
- 7 Director's designee;
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- 9 (4) The Director of the County of Hawaii's Planning
- 10 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 12 (5) The Director of the County of Kauai's Planning
- 13 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 15 (6) The Director of the County of Maui's Planning
- 16 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 18 (7) One member from the House of Representatives, to be
- 19 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 20 Representatives;
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- 22 (8) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
- 23 President of the Senate;
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- 25 (9) Two representatives from the Building Industry
- 26 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
- 27 construction and construction costs;
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- 29 (10) Two representatives from the General Contractors
- 30 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
- 31 construction and construction costs;
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- 33 (11) Two representatives from the Subcontractors
- 34 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
- 35 construction and construction costs; and
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- 37 (12) Two representatives from NAIOP Hawaii with knowledge
- 38 and experience in construction or development and
- 39 associated costs; and
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- 41 (13) One representative from the International Brotherhood
- 42 of Electrical Workers, Local 1186; and



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(14) One representative from the Plumber and Fitters, Local 675; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Department of Accounting and General Services are requested to provide administrative support to the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force 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 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Comptroller; Directors of the Planning Departments of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii; President of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii; President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii; President of NAIOP Hawaii; President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186; and President of the Plumber and Fitters, Local 675.

