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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING, AS A CONDITION OF ITS APPROVAL OF A SUBDIVISION OR ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT FOR ANY NEW STRUCTURE OR UNIT WITHIN A STRUCTURE, THE SUBDIVIDER OR DEVELOPER TO OBTAIN ASSURANCE OF MAIL DELIVERY TO EACH PARCEL.

WHEREAS, residents of some property development projects in the United States experience difficulty in receiving their mail due to various reasons, including the lack of a street address 4 for their lot, parcel, structure, or unit recorded in the United States Postal Service's database; and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas, the United States Postal Service does not deliver mail to the doorstep of each lot, parcel, structure, or unit even with a street address, and instead makes deliveries to a specific location from which residents in the area can retrieve their mail, including individual post office boxes at local post offices and cluster box units that serve multiple addresses within the area; and

WHEREAS, in such rural areas, residents rely on mail-order deliveries, but the rural post offices cannot handle the influx of parcels as shown by lines of residents awaiting hours for parcel delivery; and

WHEREAS, in Hawaii, certain property development projects, including subdivisions in rural areas, lack the sufficient number of post office boxes and cluster box units to serve all residents in the area, thereby requiring some to drive over an hour to retrieve their mail from a friend or family member residing within the United States Postal Service's service area to whom they had their mail sent in care of; and

WHEREAS, people in Hawaii should be able to receive their mail and parcel deliveries at a location that is within a reasonable distance from their residence; and

WHEREAS, the power to enact and formulate ordinances regulating the approval of subdivisions and issuance of building permits in the State rests with the legislative bodies of each county; and

WHEREAS, existing county ordinances do not require subdividers or developers to ensure that each lot, parcel, structure, or unit of a structure located within a subdivision or development project has a street address and mailbox for use by the United States Postal Service to deliver mail; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the House of Representatives concurring, that each county is requested to adopt an ordinance requiring, as a condition of its approval of a subdivision or issuance of a building permit for any new structure or unit within a structure, the subdivider or developer to:

(1) Obtain the county's approval of:

(A) The street name for the street on which the lot, parcel, or structure is located, if one has not been assigned already; and

(B) The street address for the lot, parcel, structure, or unit of the structure, as applicable; and

(2) Erect and install within a reasonable distance from the lot, parcel, structure, or unit, as applicable, a mailbox assigned thereto for use by the United States Postal Service to deliver mail, should it decide to extend its delivery service to the location;

before the sale or lease of any lot, parcel, structure, or unit of a structure located within the subdivision or development project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mailbox for each lot, parcel, structure, or unit of a structure, as applicable, shall be erected and installed in conformance with the standards set by the United States Postmaster General and approved by the local postmaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; Chairperson of the Maui County Council; Chairperson of the Kauai County Council; Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the County of Maui; Mayor of the County of Kauai; and Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

