
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING DENSITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§46-4 County zoning. (a) This section and any
4 ordinance, rule, or regulation adopted in accordance with this
5 section shall apply to lands not contained within the forest
6 reserve boundaries as established on January 31, 1957, or as
7 subsequently amended.

8 Zoning in all counties shall be accomplished within the
9 framework of a long-range, comprehensive general plan prepared
10 or being prepared to guide the overall future development of the
11 county. Zoning shall be one of the tools available to the
12 county to put the general plan into effect in an orderly manner.
13 Zoning in the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai means the
14 establishment of districts of such number, shape, and area, and
15 the adoption of regulations for each district to carry out the
16 purposes of this section. In establishing or regulating the
17 districts, full consideration shall be given to all available



1 data as to soil classification and physical use capabilities of
2 the land to allow and encourage the most beneficial use of the
3 land consonant with good zoning practices. The zoning power
4 granted herein shall be exercised by ordinance which may relate
5 to:

- 6 (1) The areas within which agriculture, forestry,
7 industry, trade, and business may be conducted;
- 8 (2) The areas in which residential uses may be regulated
9 or prohibited;
- 10 (3) The areas bordering natural watercourses, channels,
11 and streams, in which trades or industries, filling or
12 dumping, erection of structures, and the location of
13 buildings may be prohibited or restricted;
- 14 (4) The areas in which particular uses may be subjected to
15 special restrictions;
- 16 (5) The location of buildings and structures designed for
17 specific uses and designation of uses for which
18 buildings and structures may not be used or altered;
- 19 (6) The location, height, bulk, number of stories, and
20 size of buildings and other structures;
- 21 (7) The location of roads, schools, and recreation areas;



- 1 (8) Building setback lines and future street lines;
- 2 (9) The density and distribution of population;
- 3 (10) The percentage of a lot that may be occupied, size of
- 4 yards, courts, and other open spaces;
- 5 (11) Minimum and maximum lot sizes; and
- 6 (12) Other regulations the boards or [city] council of any
- 7 county find necessary and proper to permit and
- 8 encourage the orderly development of land resources
- 9 within their jurisdictions.

10 The council of any county shall prescribe rules,
11 regulations, and administrative procedures and provide personnel
12 it finds necessary to enforce this section and any ordinance
13 enacted in accordance with this section. The ordinances may be
14 enforced by appropriate fines and penalties, civil or criminal,
15 or by court order at the suit of the county or the owner or
16 owners of real estate directly affected by the ordinances.

17 Any civil fine or penalty provided by ordinance under this
18 section may be imposed by the district court, or by the zoning
19 agency after an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to chapter
20 91. The proceeding shall not be a prerequisite for any
21 injunctive relief ordered by the circuit court.



1 Nothing in this section shall invalidate any zoning
2 ordinance or regulation adopted by any county or other agency of
3 government pursuant to the statutes in effect prior to July 1,
4 1957.

5 The powers granted herein shall be liberally construed in
6 favor of the county exercising them, and in [~~such~~] a manner [~~as~~
7 ~~to promote~~] that promotes the orderly development of each county
8 or city and county in accordance with a long-range,
9 comprehensive general plan to ensure the greatest benefit for
10 the State as a whole. This section shall not be construed to
11 limit or repeal any powers of any county to achieve these ends
12 through zoning and building regulations, except insofar as
13 forest and water reserve zones are concerned and as provided in
14 subsections (c) and (d).

15 Neither this section nor any ordinance enacted pursuant to
16 this section shall prohibit the continued lawful use of any
17 building or premises for any trade, industrial, residential,
18 agricultural, or other purpose for which the building or
19 premises is used at the time this section or the ordinance takes
20 effect; provided that a zoning ordinance may provide for
21 elimination of nonconforming uses as the uses are discontinued,



1 or for the amortization or phasing out of nonconforming uses or
2 signs over a reasonable period of time in commercial,
3 industrial, resort, and apartment zoned areas only. In no event
4 shall [~~such~~] the amortization or phasing out of nonconforming
5 uses apply to any existing building or premises used for
6 residential (single-family or duplex) or agricultural uses.
7 Nothing in this section shall affect or impair the powers and
8 duties of the director of transportation as set forth in chapter
9 262.

10 (b) Any final order of a zoning agency established under
11 this section may be appealed to the circuit court of the circuit
12 in which the land in question is found. The appeal shall be in
13 accordance with the Hawaii rules of civil procedure.

14 (c) Each county may adopt reasonable standards to allow
15 the construction of two single-family dwelling units on any lot
16 where a residential dwelling unit is permitted.

17 (d) Neither this section nor any other law, county
18 ordinance, or rule shall prohibit group living in facilities
19 with eight or fewer residents for purposes or functions that are
20 licensed, certified, registered, or monitored by the State;
21 provided that a resident manager or a resident supervisor and



1 the resident manager's or resident supervisor's family shall not
2 be included in this resident count. These group living
3 facilities shall meet all applicable county requirements not
4 inconsistent with the intent of this subsection, including but
5 not limited to building height, setback, maximum lot coverage,
6 parking, and floor area requirements.

7 (e) Neither this section nor any other law, county
8 ordinance, or rule shall prohibit the use of land for employee
9 housing and community buildings in plantation community
10 subdivisions as defined in section 205-4.5(a)(12); in addition,
11 no zoning ordinance shall provide for the elimination,
12 amortization, or phasing out of plantation community
13 subdivisions as a nonconforming use.

14 (f) Neither this section nor any other law, county
15 ordinance, or rule shall prohibit the use of land for medical
16 cannabis production centers or medical cannabis dispensaries
17 established and licensed pursuant to chapter 329D; provided that
18 the land is otherwise zoned for agriculture, manufacturing, or
19 retail purposes.

20 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) to the
21 contrary, no county may adopt ordinances that restrict the level

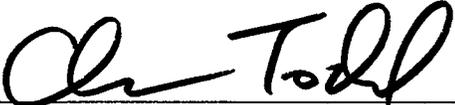


1 of housing density on state lands that are within 0.5 miles of
2 an elevated mass transit station."

3 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY: 
JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 416

Report Title:

Housing Density; State Land; Counties; Mass Transit

Description:

Prohibits each county from adopting ordinances that restrict housing density on state lands that are within 0.5 miles of an elevated mass transit station.

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