H.B. NO. 2040

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERMITTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that long delays in the 2 county building permit process continue in Hawaii. The Wharton 3 Residential Land Use Regulatory Index concluded that Hawaii's 4 regulatory environment is significantly more stringent than 5 other surveyed communities across the nation. In particular, 6 the average wait time for building permits in Hawaii is three 7 times longer than the national average. According to the 2023 8 data submitted by the city and county of Honolulu department of 9 planning and permitting, residential development projects take 10 six months while commercial development projects require a year 11 to get a permit approval.

12 The legislature also finds that the approval delays 13 increase building expenses, impede the building of affordable 14 homes for residents, and hamper economic growth of the State. 15 As the current permitting system is ineffective in supporting 16 needs, the legislature finds that a multi-disciplinary approach 17 is needed to speed up the permit approval time. The purpose of

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1 this Act is to establish a building permit expeditionary 2 improvement force to assess and remove bottlenecks in the 3 permitting approval process. 4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of 5 the governor the building permit expeditionary improvement 6 force. 7 (b) The governor shall appoint a member of the public with 8 relevant knowledge and experience in the building industry to 9 serve as the chairperson of the task force. 10 (c) The task force shall consist of no more than fifteen 11 members including but not limited to: 12 (1) The director of each county planning department, or 13 the director's designee; 14 (2) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance 15 and development corporation, or the executive 16 director's designee; 17 (3) The executive director of the Hawaii Building 18 Construction and Trades Council, or the executive 19 director's designee; 20 (4) The president of the Building Industry Association of 21 Hawaii, or the president's designee;

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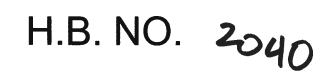
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1 (5) The president of the General Contractors Association 2 of Hawaii, or the president's designee; 3 (6) The remaining task force members shall be appointed by 4 the chair within sixty days of this Act's effective 5 date. 6 (d) The task force may consult with individuals and 7 entities including but not limited to the following: 8 Building permitting authorities in other states; (1)9 (2)Architects, engineers, and construction business 10 owners engaged in the building industry; and 11 (3) Any other professionals recommended by the chair. 12 (e) The members of the task force shall serve without 13 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and 14 necessary expenses, including consulting fees and travel 15 expenses, incurred in carrying out their official duties. 16 The task force shall make a comprehensive strategic (f) 17 plan to expedite outstanding permits and improve efficiency of 18 the county processes. The task force may recommend for the 19 temporary suspension of county permitting regulations to the 20 extent necessary to streamline the permitting process subject to 21 the applicable county mayor's approval.

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1 (q) The task force shall submit an interim report on the 2 status of its comprehensive strategic plan, including findings, 3 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the 4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 5 the regular session of 2025. The task force shall submit a 6 final report of its comprehensive strategic plan, including 7 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the 8 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 9 the regular session of 2026.

10 (h) The task force shall cease to exist six months after 11 the time to obtain permit approval meets national standards. 12 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of 13 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 14 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined 15 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the 16 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 17 to be exceeded by \$ or per cent. The reasons for 18 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the 19 appropriations made for this Act are necessary to serve the 20 public interest and to meet the needs addressed by this Act.

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1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the building permit expeditionary improvement force to carry out its 4 5 responsibilities outlined in section 2. 6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the 7 governor for the purposes of this Act. 8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval. 9 nles 10 INTRODUCED ΒY

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#### **Report Title:**

Task force; Permitting; Construction; General Fund Exceeded

#### Description:

Establishes the building permit expeditionary improvement force to eliminate inefficiencies in the permitting process. Appropriates funds exceeding the ceiling.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

