

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY OF MAUI, TO PROVIDE A CLEAR STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM HOUSING NEEDS FOR RESIDENTS DISPLACED BY THE AUGUST 2023 MAUI WILDFIRES.

1 WHEREAS, the devastating August 2023 Maui wildfires have
2 left thousands of residents displaced from their homes; and

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4 WHEREAS, the housing crisis on Maui had already been
5 creating housing instability and shortages for Maui families;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, those displaced from their homes by the August
9 2023 Maui wildfires include an estimated one thousand six
10 hundred renters; and

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12 WHEREAS, the majority of those displaced have expressed a
13 desire to live in an area geographically close to where their
14 residences were prior to the wildfires; and

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16 WHEREAS, there are significant differing needs in housing
17 for displaced residents including owners of single-family homes,
18 units in multi-unit dwellings and condominiums, and renters; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's housing
21 relief is currently providing temporary rental assistance to
22 displaced families; and

23
24 WHEREAS, meeting the need for additional affordable rental
25 housing is critical to ensure that renters have a place to rent
26 as federal aid subsidies; and

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28 WHEREAS, the County of Maui plays a significant role in
29 accelerating the development of affordable rental housing
30 through expedited permitting and infrastructure development; and
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1 WHEREAS, the County of Maui can purchase or condemn
2 property for the construction of temporary housing that can
3 serve as a bridge for renters until long-term affordable rental
4 housing is constructed; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State has authority over land use and
7 additional state planning; and

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9 WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Governor and the Department
10 of Human Services (DHS) announced the launch of the DHS Rental
11 Assistance Program (RAP) specifically to help survivors of the
12 August 2023 Maui wildfires who do not qualify for Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Governor has also identified multiples sites
16 for housing development to assist survivors of the August 2023
17 Maui wildfires, including Kalaiola project, to be developed by
18 DHS on a state-owned parcel near Lahaina Civic Center where
19 development of a master-planned Villages of Lealii has been long
20 stalled, and the Haggai International Institute's Mid-Pacific
21 Center in Kihei to be purchased by the Hawaii Housing Finance
22 and Development Corporation (HHFDC) as a temporary housing site;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, the Governor has identified additional HHFDC sites
26 on Maui for permanent housing, including Kaiaulu o Kukuia,
27 Kaiaulu o Kupuohi, Mahinahina Hills, and Front Street Apartments
28 in West Maui; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has property
31 within the burn zone that could be utilized for repopulation
32 efforts for displaced residents who are eligible; now,
33 therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor, in
38 collaboration with the County of Maui, is hereby requested to
39 provide a clear strategy for addressing the short- and long-term
40 housing needs for residents displaced by the August 2023 Maui
41 wildfires; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the housing strategies are
2 requested to include:

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- 4 (1) Specific projects, construction deadlines, and opening
5 dates for units that meet the needs of residents as it
6 relates to the projected conclusion of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency mission;
- 8
- 9 (2) Clear maps detailing the geographic location of
10 proposed projects, existing and needed infrastructure
11 capacity, and existing or needed entitlements;
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- 13 (3) Breakouts on units needed for each sub-category of
14 displaced households including but not limited to
15 owners of single-family homes, units in multi-unit
16 dwellings and condominiums, and renters;
- 17
- 18 (4) Details on the necessary infrastructure for new
19 housing construction;
- 20
- 21 (5) County plans to expedite entitlements for housing
22 construction for displaced victims; and
- 23
- 24 (6) Temporary waivers of state land use requirements that
25 would help expedite construction of housing for
26 displaced families; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is requested
29 to consider expediting its permitting by establishing a separate
30 disaster recovery and response permitting office; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the projects in the West Maui
33 region are requested to be prioritized including Lahaina
34 Recreational Center, Maui Land and Pineapple lands in Napili,
35 and Front Street; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the housing strategies are
38 requested to be completed by May 31, 2024, to maximize federal
39 disaster aid and recovery; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the status reports on the
2 implementation of the housing strategies are requested to be
3 provided to the Legislature every quarter; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
7 the County of Maui, Director of Human Services, Executive
8 Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and Executive
9 Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
10 Corporation.

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OFFERED BY: 

