

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE 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  
3

4 WHEREAS, the housing crisis on Maui had already been  
5 creating housing instability and shortages for Maui families;  
6 and  
7

8 WHEREAS, those displaced from their homes by the August  
9 2023 Maui wildfires include an estimated one thousand six  
10 hundred renters; and  
11

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  
15

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  
27

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  
31

32 WHEREAS, the County of Maui can purchase or condemn  
33 property for the construction of temporary housing that can



1 serve as a bridge for renters until long-term affordable rental  
2 housing is constructed; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the State has authority over land use and  
5 additional state planning; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Governor and the Department  
8 of Human Services (DHS) announced the launch of the DHS Rental  
9 Assistance Program (RAP) specifically to help survivors of the  
10 August 2023 Maui wildfires who do not qualify for Federal  
11 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Governor has also identified multiples sites  
14 for housing development to assist survivors of the August 2023  
15 Maui wildfires, including Kalaiola project, to be developed by  
16 DHS on a state-owned parcel near Lahaina Civic Center where  
17 development of a master-planned Villages of Lealii has been long  
18 stalled; and the Haggai International Institute's Mid-Pacific  
19 Center in Kihei to be purchased by the Hawaii Housing Finance  
20 and Development Corporation (HHFDC) as a temporary housing site;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Governor has identified additional HHFDC sites  
24 on Maui for permanent housing, including Kaiaulu o Kukuia,  
25 Kaiaulu o Kupuohi, Mahinahina Hills, and Front Street Apartments  
26 in West Maui; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has property  
29 within the burn zone that could be utilized for repopulation  
30 efforts for displaced residents who are eligible; now,  
31 therefore,

32  
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
35 that the Governor, in collaboration with the County of Maui, is  
36 hereby requested to provide a clear strategy for addressing the  
37 short- and long-term housing needs for residents displaced by  
38 the August 2023 Maui wildfires; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the housing strategies are  
41 requested to include:  
42



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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is requested  
26 to consider expediting its permitting by establishing a separate  
27 disaster recovery and response permitting office; and  
28

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

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

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the status reports on the  
39 implementation of the housing strategies are requested to be  
40 provided to the Legislature every quarter; and  
41




# S.R. NO. 202

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the County  
3 of Maui, Director of Human Services, Executive Director of the  
4 Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and Executive Director of the  
5 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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