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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO  
DEVELOP LANDLORD-TENANT CODE IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE THE  
SUPPLY OF HOUSING IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, rental housing is a vital source of housing for  
2 many working families, residents, and locals in Hawaii, with  
3 38.2 percent of Hawaii residents living as renters, according to  
4 the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii's  
5 2024 Hawaii Housing Factbook; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, increasing the availability of rental housing is  
8 essential to addressing Hawaii's housing shortage and ensuring  
9 stability for residents; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, landlord-tenant relationships are governed by  
12 various state and federal laws, requiring clear understanding  
13 and compliance to ensure fair and equitable treatment for  
14 tenants and housing providers alike; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, the increasing complexity of these laws and  
17 navigating the court process can create difficulties for tenants  
18 and housing providers; and

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20           WHEREAS, clarifying landlord-tenant laws will reduce the  
21 number of cases that are brought to court, thus alleviating the  
22 burden placed on the judicial system; and

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24           WHEREAS, making improvements to the landlord-tenant law  
25 will help housing providers to have more certainty and  
26 confidence in their ability to rent their properties and provide  
27 Hawaii residents with much needed housing; and

28  
29           WHEREAS, establishing a working group dedicated to  
30 researching and improving the landlord-tenant code and  
31 addressing any other relevant landlord-tenant issues would



1 provide an opportunity for collaboration among key stakeholders  
2 to identify concerns, evaluate potential solutions, and  
3 recommend best practices; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
7 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Attorney General is  
8 requested to convene a three-year working group to research  
9 landlord-tenant issues specific to increasing the availability  
10 of rental housing and improving landlord-tenant interactions,  
11 including:  
12

- 13 (1) Identifying the potential availability of rental  
14 housing stock that is not being offered for rent;  
15
- 16 (2) Evaluating the challenges faced by landlords and  
17 tenants, including legal, financial, and procedural  
18 issues that are barriers to offering or obtaining  
19 housing;  
20
- 21 (3) Best practices and potential landlord-tenant code or  
22 other regulatory improvements for property managers,  
23 tenants, and property owners;  
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- 25 (4) Determining problem areas that impact property  
26 managers, tenants, and property owners and whether  
27 educational resources or other solutions can help  
28 address those challenges; and  
29
- 30 (5) Exploring any other feasible ideas or relevant  
31 solutions, pursuant to the discretion of the working  
32 group; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
35 to comprise the following members:  
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- 37 (1) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's  
38 designee, who is requested to serve as the Chairperson  
39 of the working group;  
40



- 1           (2) The President of the Senate, or the President's  
2           designee;
- 3
- 4           (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the  
5           Speaker's designee;
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- 7           (4) A representative from the Judiciary with experience in  
8           landlord-tenant cases;
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- 10          (5) An attorney specializing in landlord-tenant laws, to  
11          be invited by the Chairperson;
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- 13          (6) One member who owns the property they are managing,  
14          but is not a real estate licensee, to be invited by  
15          the Chairperson;
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- 17          (7) Two members from organizations representing  
18          professional property managers--one to be invited by  
19          the President of the Senate or the President's  
20          designee and one to be invited by the Speaker of the  
21          House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee;
- 22
- 23          (8) Two members from organizations representing tenant  
24          concerns--one to be invited by the President of the  
25          Senate or the President's designee and one to be  
26          invited by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
27          or the Speaker's designee; and
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- 29          (9) Any other member deemed necessary that provides the  
30          appropriate special expertise, including  
31          representatives from organizations with experience in  
32          landlord or tenant issues, upon approval by the  
33          chairperson; and
- 34

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the  
36 working group be convened no later than July 1, 2025; and

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38           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested,  
39 with the assistance of the Attorney General, to submit an  
40 initial report no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
41 of the Regular Session of 2026; and

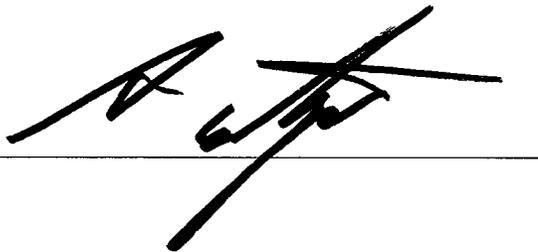


# H.C.R. NO. 158

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
3 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Attorney  
4 General.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', is written over a horizontal line.

MAR - 7 2025

