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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY 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

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

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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

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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

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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  
32 provide an opportunity for collaboration among key stakeholders



1 to identify concerns, evaluate potential solutions, and  
2 recommend best practices; now, therefore,

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

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- 11 (1) Evaluating the challenges faced by landlords and  
12 tenants, including legal, financial, and procedural  
13 issues that are barriers to offering or obtaining  
14 housing;
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- 16 (2) Best practices and potential landlord-tenant code or  
17 other regulatory improvements for property managers,  
18 tenants, and property owners;
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- 20 (3) Determining problem areas that impact property managers,  
21 tenants, and property owners and whether educational  
22 resources or other solutions can help address those  
23 challenges; and
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- 25 (4) Exploring any other feasible ideas or relevant  
26 solutions, pursuant to the discretion of the working  
27 group; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
30 to comprise the following members:

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- 32 (1) The Judiciary, or its designee, who is requested to  
33 serve as the Chairperson of the working group;
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- 35 (2) The President of the Senate, or the President's  
36 designee;
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- 38 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the  
39 Speaker's designee;
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- 41 (4) A representative from the Judiciary with experience in  
42 landlord-tenant cases;



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2 (5) An attorney specializing in landlord-tenant laws, to be  
3 invited by the Chairperson;  
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5 (6) One member who owns the property they are managing, but  
6 is not a real estate licensee, to be invited by the  
7 Chairperson;  
8  
9 (7) Two members from organizations representing professional  
10 property managers--one to be invited by the President of  
11 the Senate or the President's designee and one to be  
12 invited by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
13 or the Speaker's designee;  
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15 (8) Two members from organizations representing tenant  
16 concerns--one to be invited by the President of the  
17 Senate or the President's designee and one to be invited  
18 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the  
19 Speaker's designee; and  
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21 (9) Any other member deemed necessary that provides the  
22 appropriate special expertise, including representatives  
23 from organizations with experience in landlord or tenant  
24 issues, upon approval by the chairperson; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the  
27 working group be convened no later than July 1, 2025; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested,  
30 with the assistance of the Judiciary, to submit an initial  
31 report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
32 Regular Session of 2026; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,  
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Judiciary.  
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