
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LAND USE COMMISSION TO COORDINATE WITH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONS AND COUNTY COUNCILS TO CONDUCT CONCURRENT REVIEWS OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS, DISTRICT BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS, AND ZONING AMENDMENTS WHEN RECLASSIFYING LAND.

1 WHEREAS, the Land Use Commission is responsible for
2 classifying all lands in the State into urban, rural,
3 agricultural, or conservation districts; and
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5 WHEREAS, the counties are responsible for overseeing
6 planning and zoning under their respective general plans and
7 zoning ordinances, which must align with and implement state
8 land use districts; and
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10 WHEREAS, any significant change in land use requires a
11 three-step process that involves:
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- 13 (1) A general plan amendment, which is a county-level
14 process;
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- 16 (2) A state district boundary amendment, which is either a
17 Land Use Commission process or, if the land in
18 question is below a certain acreage threshold, a
19 county-level process; and
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- 21 (3) A county zoning amendment, which is a county-level
22 process to implement the updated general plan and land
23 use district; and
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25 WHEREAS, under the existing land reclassification system,
26 each amendment is processed separately and sequentially,
27 resulting in multiple review periods and public hearings that
28 can take months or even years to complete; and
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1 WHEREAS, this protracted review timeline poses challenges
2 for landowners, businesses, and government agencies seeking to
3 address housing, infrastructure, economic development, and
4 environmental management needs in a timely manner; and
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6 WHEREAS, more efficient coordination and scheduling between
7 the Land Use Commission, county planning commissions, and county
8 councils will significantly expedite the overall land
9 reclassification process, reduce redundancy, and improve public
10 engagement by consolidating timelines where possible while still
11 preserving the integrity and thoroughness of each review; now,
12 therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2025, that the Land Use Commission is requested to coordinate
17 with each county planning commission and county council to
18 conduct concurrent reviews of general plan amendments, district
19 boundary amendments, and zoning amendments; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land Use Commission, county
22 planning commissions, and county councils are requested to
23 ensure each decision is made in the appropriate sequence but
24 scheduled as close together as practicable; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land Use Commissions,
27 county planning commissions, and county councils are requested
28 to develop administrative protocols or memoranda of
29 understanding to facilitate shared hearings, joint public
30 comment opportunities, and synchronized timelines to reduce
31 unnecessary delay and duplication of effort; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Land Use
35 Commission; Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable
36 Development; Mayors of the Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii
37 and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Chairpersons of
38 the County Councils of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii and the
39 Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; and Directors of the
40 Departments of Planning of the Counties of Maui and Kauai,
41 Planning Department of the County of Hawaii, and Department of
42 Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.



H.R. NO. 59

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OFFERED BY: _____

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