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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii housing  
2 finance and development corporation and the Hawaii public  
3 housing authority both provide critical services to address  
4 Hawaii's affordable housing crisis. The Hawaii housing finance  
5 and development corporation oversees the financing of affordable  
6 housing and the Hawaii public housing authority manages the  
7 public housing programs and housing choice vouchers. Through  
8 these two entities, the supply of affordable housing in Hawaii  
9 has grown, with billions of dollars financed and more than six  
10 thousand public housing units currently being managed.

11           The legislature further finds that the executive directors  
12 of the two entities face different compensation limitations,  
13 with the executive director of the housing authority being paid  
14 no more than the governor, and the executive director of the  
15 development corporation being paid a lower salary of not more  
16 than the director of business, economic development, and  
17 tourism--a difference of more than \$10,000. In addition, the



1 salary of the executive assistant of the development corporation  
2 is also capped at a percentage of the executive director's  
3 salary.

4 The legislature believes that increasing certain salary  
5 caps will help the State compete with the private sector for  
6 highly skilled individuals and further increase the supply of  
7 affordable housing in Hawaii.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the  
9 salary cap for the executive director of the Hawaii housing  
10 finance and development corporation to an amount that does not  
11 exceed the governor's salary, while also increasing the salary  
12 cap for the executive assistant.

13 SECTION 2. Section 201H-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

15 "(a) There is established the Hawaii housing finance and  
16 development corporation to be placed within the department of  
17 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative  
18 purposes only[-]; provided that the corporation shall have  
19 autonomy in personnel matters, including establishing and  
20 filling positions and setting salaries. The corporation shall  
21 be a public body and a body corporate and politic.



1 (b) The corporation shall employ, exempt from chapter 76  
2 and section 26-35(a)(4), an executive director and [~~an executive~~  
3 ~~assistant.~~] a deputy executive director. The executive director  
4 shall be paid a salary not to exceed the salary of the [~~director~~  
5 ~~of business, economic development, and tourism.~~] governor. The  
6 [~~executive assistant~~] deputy executive director shall be paid a  
7 salary not to exceed [~~ninety~~] ninety-five per cent of the  
8 executive director's salary. The corporation may employ,  
9 subject to chapter 76, technical experts and officers, agents,  
10 and employees, permanent and temporary, as required. The  
11 corporation may also employ officers, agents, and employees,  
12 prescribe their duties and qualifications, and fix their  
13 salaries, not subject to chapter 76, when in the determination  
14 of the corporation, the services to be performed are unique and  
15 essential to the execution of the functions of the corporation.  
16 Unless approved by the legislature by concurrent resolution, the  
17 corporation shall not offer any employment contract that exceeds  
18 two years. The corporation may call upon the attorney general  
19 for legal services as it may require. The corporation may  
20 delegate to one or more of its agents or employees its powers  
21 and duties as it deems proper."



1       SECTION 3. Section 356D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3       "(b) The authority shall employ, exempt from chapter 76  
4 and section 26-35(a)(4), an executive director, an executive  
5 assistant, a chief financial management advisor, a property  
6 management branch chief, a chief planner, and a redevelopment  
7 officer, whose salaries shall be set by the board established  
8 under section 356D-3; provided that no salary shall exceed the  
9 governor's salary. The authority may employ, subject to  
10 chapter 76, technical experts and officers, agents, and  
11 employees, permanent or temporary, as required. The authority  
12 may also employ officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their  
13 duties and qualifications; and fix their salaries, not subject  
14 to chapter 76, when in the determination of the authority, the  
15 services to be performed are unique and essential to the  
16 execution of the functions of the authority; provided that if  
17 the authority hires an officer, agent, or employee in a capacity  
18 not subject to chapter 76, the authority shall include in an  
19 annual report to the legislature, to be submitted not later than  
20 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, the  
21 position descriptions and reasons for hiring the personnel in a



1 civil service exempt capacity. Unless approved by the  
2 legislature by concurrent resolution, the authority shall not  
3 offer any employment contract that exceeds two years. The  
4 authority may call upon the attorney general for legal services  
5 as it may require. The authority may delegate to one or more of  
6 its agents or employees the powers and duties it deems proper."

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2026



# H.B. NO. 1714

**Report Title:**

HHFDC; HPHA; Executive Director Salary; Executive Assistant;  
Employment Contract

**Description:**

Increases the salary cap of the Executive Director of Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to an amount that does not exceed the Governor's salary. Renames the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director and increases that position's salary cap to 95% of the Executive Director salary. Prohibits HHFDC and Hawaii Public Housing Authority employment contracts that exceed 2 years, unless approved by the Legislature. Provides HHFDC with autonomy in personnel matters.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

