

JAN 28 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO ACT ON ANY BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF A RESIDENCE THAT IS PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND FOUND BY THE COUNTY TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE SAFETY OR HEALTH OF AN OLDER ADULT OR PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF RECEIPT OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION.

1 WHEREAS, throughout the State, older adults, those aged
2 sixty-two years of age or older, are currently facing months-
3 long delays in receiving approval for building permit
4 applications for modifications to residences that are needed for
5 safety and independent living; and

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7 WHEREAS, such modifications often include the installation
8 of ramps, grab bars, widened doorways, and other features that
9 enable aging in place and reduce reliance on institutional care;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, prolonged delays in permit approvals significantly
13 increase the risk of fall-related injuries, fatalities, and
14 avoidable hospitalizations among older adults, placing
15 additional strain on emergency medical services and health care
16 systems; and

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18 WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries
19 among seniors, with more than two hundred thirteen preventable,
20 fall-related deaths estimated in 2023; and

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22 WHEREAS, timely approval of building permits for
23 safety-related home modifications is critical to advancing
24 public health goals, reducing health care costs, and supporting
25 the State's commitment to enabling older adults to age safely
26 and independently in their own homes; and

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28 WHEREAS, establishing a clear timeline for counties to
29 approve or disapprove building permit applications within



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forty-five days of receiving a complete application will promote efficiency, accountability, and equitable access to essential home safety improvements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, that each county is urged to act on any building permit application for modification of a residence that is prescribed by a licensed health care provider and found by the county to be essential to the safety or health of an older adult or person with a disability within forty-five days of the receipt of a complete application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of each county, Director of the Hawaii County Department of Public Works, Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu, County Engineer of the Kauai County Department of Public Works, and Director of the Maui County Department of Public Works.

OFFERED BY:

Amirul H.

