

JAN 28 2026

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## 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



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

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

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

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OFFERED BY: 

