

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 09 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1721
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 1721 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to clarify insurance, indemnification, and certain certificate of occupancy requirements for purposes of expedited permits.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that Act 295, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025 (Act 295), established an expedited permitting process for certain residential projects to help alleviate the permitting backlog throughout the State. However, ambiguities within Act 295 regarding additional insured requirements, indemnification language, and certification obligations have created uncertainty for architects and engineers about whether participating in the expedited permitting process could expose them to liabilities their insurance policies do not cover. Your Committee further finds that these concerns have deterred design professionals from using the expedited permit pathway, thereby slowing housing production at a time when the State urgently needs more homes.



This measure resolves the ambiguities created by Act 295, which will enable more professionals to confidently participate in the expedited process.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1721, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1721, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Housing,

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LUKE A. EVSLIN, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

Record of Votes of the Committee on Housing

Bill/Resolution No.: H.B. 1721	Committee Referral: HSG, CPC, JHA	Date: 2/4/20		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSG Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. EVSLIN, Luke A. (C)	✓			
2. MIYAKE, Tyson K. (VC)	✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
4. GRANDINETTI, Tina Nakada	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. KITAGAWA, Lisa				✓
7. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
8. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
9. PIERICK, Elijah	✓			
TOTAL (9)	8	0	0	1
The recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				