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STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Hashem and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HCR 82, HD1/HR74 HD1 – Requesting the State Building Code Council to Develop and Adopt Basic Shelter Standards to Enable Low-Cost, Rapid-Deployment Housing Solutions

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers its **SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS** for **HCR 82, HD1/HR74 HD1**, which requests the State Building Code Council to develop and adopt basic shelter standards to enable low-cost, rapid-deployment housing solutions.

The Council strongly supports efforts to expand housing options that are safe, sanitary, and rapidly deployable, particularly as Hawai'i continues to face urgent housing shortages and disaster recovery needs. For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and others with access and functional needs (AFN), access to stable and appropriate housing is foundational to health, independence, and community living.

As currently written, the measure appropriately recognizes that basic shelter standards should ensure housing is safe, sanitary, and structurally sound. The Council respectfully recommends strengthening this section to explicitly include accessibility as a core component of these standards. Ensuring that basic shelter standards produce housing that is not only safe but also accessible will help prevent the creation of units that are unusable for individuals with disabilities and will reduce the need for costly retrofits in the future. Respectfully, below are our recommendations:

- Page 2 line 1 "a new category of basic shelter standards will enable the adoption of minimum standards that ensure housing is safe, **accessible**, sanitary, and structurally sound, while also allowing greater flexibility than full building code requirements;"

- Page 3 line 39 "State Building Code Council to consult with county building officials, housing advocates, disability advocates, ADA Coordinators, nonprofit organizations, and industry stakeholders to ensure that the new basic shelter standards protect public health, safety, and welfare, and reflect Hawaii's climate, cultural context, and accessibility and resilience needs"

These recommendations are consistent with the intent of the measure and will help ensure that efforts to increase housing supply do not inadvertently create new barriers for individuals with disabilities. Incorporating accessibility at the outset supports more equitable, cost-effective, and sustainable housing development across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support with comments on HCR 82, HD1/HR74, HD1.**

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator