
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT
BASIC SHELTER STANDARDS TO ENABLE LOW-COST, RAPID-
DEPLOYMENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii continues to face urgent housing shortages,
2 compounded by high construction costs, labor constraints, and
3 limited buildable land; and
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5 WHEREAS, the current State Building Code requires all new
6 housing to comply with comprehensive standards, including
7 energy-efficient windows, permanent insulation, and individual
8 kitchens and bathrooms, which are appropriate for conventional
9 housing but effectively prohibit low-cost, rapid-deployment
10 housing solutions, such as single-wall plantation homes, Quonset
11 huts, kauhale, and prefabricated accessory dwelling units
12 (ADUs); and
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14 WHEREAS, under gubernatorial emergency proclamations,
15 temporary exemptions from full building code requirements have
16 enabled innovative supportive housing models, including kauhale
17 villages and the rapid deployment of prefabricated ADUs
18 following the August 2023 Maui wildfires; and
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20 WHEREAS, however, these solutions disappear when the
21 emergency proclamations expire, leaving the State without
22 durable tools to provide affordable and emergency housing; and
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24 WHEREAS, section 107-25(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
25 expressly authorizes the State Building Code Council to adopt
26 provisions based on nationally published codes or standards,
27 including mechanical standards, hurricane-resistant standards,
28 flood and tsunami standards, and other loss mitigation
29 standards; and
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1 WHEREAS, establishing a new category of basic shelter
2 standards will enable the adoption of minimum standards that
3 ensure housing is safe, sanitary, and structurally sound, while
4 also allowing greater flexibility than full building code
5 requirements; and

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7 WHEREAS, adopting basic shelter standards would also
8 provide a lawful framework for dignified, low-cost housing
9 solutions, and restricting the use of basic shelter standards to
10 projects built or conveyed by government agencies or nonprofit
11 organizations would prevent speculative or profit-driven misuse;
12 now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the State Building Code
17 Council is requested to develop and adopt basic shelter
18 standards to enable low-cost, rapid-deployment housing
19 solutions; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council
22 is requested to adopt, amend, or update the State Building Code
23 pursuant to its authority under section 107-25(6), Hawaii
24 Revised Statutes, to establish a Basic Shelter Appendix; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council
27 is requested to consider the following suitable reference
28 standards for the new Basic Shelter Appendix:

- 29
30 (1) United States Department of Housing and Urban
31 Development (HUD) Housing Quality Standards (24 C.F.R.
32 982.401) and HUD Minimum Property Standards;
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34 (2) International Code Council Off-Site Construction
35 Standards (ICC/MBI 1200, 1205, and 1210), including
36 provisions for mechanical, electrical, plumbing,
37 energy efficiency, and water conservation; and
38
39 (3) Federal Emergency Management Agency and international
40 humanitarian shelter standards, which are recognized
41 benchmarks for emergency and supportive housing; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council
2 is requested to consult with county building officials, housing
3 advocates, nonprofit organizations, and industry stakeholders to
4 ensure that the new basic shelter standards reflect Hawaii's
5 climate, cultural context, and resilience needs; and

6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, Chair
9 of the State Building Code Council, Director of the Hawaii
10 County Department of Public Works, Director of the Department of
11 Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu,
12 County Engineer of the Kauai County Department of Public Works,
13 and Director of the Maui County Department of Public Works.

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OFFERED BY:

ZMC

MAR 12 2026

