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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON THE KAUAHALE  
INITIATIVE, OHANA ZONES, AND RELATED HOUSING PROJECTS  
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY PROCLAMATIONS TO  
ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

1           WHEREAS, the Legislature is vested with the  
2 responsibilities of determining state policy and appropriating  
3 state funds; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, to promote transparency, accountability, and the  
6 functionality of state government, the Legislature must ensure  
7 that appropriated funds are used efficiently, effectively, and  
8 in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 309, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025,  
11 the Auditor has been conducting a management and performance  
12 audit of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing  
13 Solutions' Kauhale Initiative; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, the audit, which was required to be completed  
16 prior to the start of the Regular Session of 2026, is not  
17 expected to be completed until the interim between the 2026 and  
18 2027 Regular Sessions, in part because parties responsible for  
19 project management and development have not been forthcoming  
20 with requested documents, including receipts and line-item  
21 accounts; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, between January 23, 2023, and January 16, 2026,  
24 Governor Josh Green, has issued twenty-one successive emergency  
25 proclamations relating to homelessness in Hawaii; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, under section 127A-13(a)(3), Hawaii Revised  
28 Statutes, the Governor's emergency proclamations may suspend  
29 specific statutes and administrative rules governing  
30 procurement, including portions of Title 9, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes; historic preservation under chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised  
2 Statutes; environmental review under chapter 343, Hawaii Revised  
3 Statutes; and state and county land use, zoning, and permitting  
4 requirements; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Governor's emergency proclamations have  
7 allowed for no-bid awards of contracts to a single contractor,  
8 HomeAid Hawaii, which is not, and has not previously been,  
9 registered with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
10 as a licensed contractor in the State; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the emergency temporary housing projects on the  
13 island of Maui to house homeless wildfire survivors,  
14 specifically Ka Lai Ola in Lahaina, Puuhonua O Nene in Kahului,  
15 and Kipuola Kauhale in Kahului, were established under the  
16 Governor's emergency proclamations to address homelessness; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, project costs for the temporary housing project Ka  
19 Lai Ola have been estimated at \$185,000,000; and Act 309,  
20 Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, allocates the sum of \$18,575,000  
21 out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal  
22 year 2025-2026, and \$24,325,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
23 the continued operation of the Kauhale Initiative; and  
24 \$2,525,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026, and \$5,855,000 for fiscal  
25 year 2026-2027 for the continued implementation of the Ohana  
26 Zones pilot project established under Act 209, Session Laws of  
27 Hawaii 2018; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, outlines  
30 procedures for establishing and administering legislative  
31 investigating committees, including procedures for conducting  
32 hearings in a fair and impartial manner; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, section 21-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes  
35 the establishment of an investigating committee by a house  
36 resolution; now, therefore,  
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
40 of 2026, that an investigating committee is established pursuant  
41 to chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be known as the



1 "House Investigating Committee on the Kauhale Initiative and  
2 Related Housing Projects"; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Investigating  
5 Committee on the Kauhale Initiative and Related Housing Projects  
6 may operate during the interim between the 2026 and 2027 Regular  
7 Sessions if the Auditor's report required by Act 309, Session  
8 Laws of Hawaii 2025:  
9

- 10 (1) Alleges mismanagement, violations of procurement  
11 rules, or unlawful actions; or  
12
- 13 (2) Does not satisfactorily answer questions of  
14 performance; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigating committee  
17 shall:  
18

- 19 (1) Investigate the Kauhale Initiative, including all  
20 projects currently or previously listed by the  
21 Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions  
22 as part of the Kauhale Initiative, as well as Ka Lai  
23 Ola, Puuhonua O Nene, and any other projects developed  
24 to provide housing or shelter for people experiencing  
25 homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless,  
26 including housing developed under emergency  
27 proclamations declaring homelessness a public health  
28 emergency;  
29
- 30 (2) Follow up on the Auditor's audit, including by  
31 reviewing, as necessary, contracts, financial  
32 statements, procurement processes, and comparisons of  
33 actual costs incurred with budgeted estimates;  
34
- 35 (3) Investigate the licensing status and qualifications of  
36 all contractors and subcontractors involved in the  
37 projects described in paragraph (1);  
38
- 39 (4) Investigate any health and safety concerns related to  
40 these projects, including any incidents, accidents,



- 1 injuries, or deaths that have occurred at project
- 2 sites;
- 3
- 4 (5) Investigate the roles and responsibilities of key
- 5 individuals and entities involved in these projects;
- 6
- 7 (6) Investigate the allegation that there are no records
- 8 of complaints filed with the Regulated Industries
- 9 Complaints Office of the Department of Commerce and
- 10 Consumer Affairs regarding unlicensed contractors,
- 11 despite multiple complaints by numerous individuals;
- 12
- 13 (7) Investigate the responses, or lack thereof, by
- 14 authorities and managing entities to concerns raised
- 15 regarding unlicensed contractors, health hazards, and
- 16 safety violations;
- 17
- 18 (8) Investigate whether the use of emergency proclamations
- 19 to exempt projects from building codes, licensing
- 20 requirements, and other regulations was appropriate
- 21 and whether adequate safeguards were in place to
- 22 protect public health and safety;
- 23
- 24 (9) Investigate whether any laws, regulations, or ethical
- 25 standards were violated in connection with these
- 26 projects;
- 27
- 28 (10) Determine whether fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement,
- 29 corruption, or other wrongdoing occurred in connection
- 30 with these projects;
- 31
- 32 (11) Examine the recommendations made in the Auditor's
- 33 report;
- 34
- 35 (12) Make recommendations for legislative actions, policy
- 36 changes, administrative reforms, and enforcement
- 37 actions to prevent similar problems in the future and
- 38 to improve the operations and management of state
- 39 agencies, the use of their funds, and related matters;
- 40 and
- 41



1 (13) Investigate any other matters related to the subject  
2 matter of this measure that the investigating  
3 committee deems relevant or necessary; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigating committee  
6 shall have every power conferred on an investigating committee  
7 by law, including the authority to:  
8

9 (1) Conduct hearings, take testimony under oath, and  
10 compel the production of documents, records, and other  
11 evidence;  
12

13 (2) Issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses  
14 and subpoenas duces tecum requiring the production of  
15 books, documents, records, contracts, correspondence,  
16 electronic communications, financial records,  
17 receipts, invoices, expenditure reports, and any other  
18 evidence;  
19

20 (3) Enter and inspect any state facility, project site, or  
21 other location relevant to the investigation;  
22

23 (4) Administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses at  
24 hearings of the investigating committee;  
25

26 (5) Report or certify instances of contempt, as provided  
27 in section 21-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
28

29 (6) Determine the means by which a record shall be made of  
30 its proceedings in which testimony or other evidence  
31 is demanded or adduced;  
32

33 (7) Employ professional, technical, clerical, or other  
34 staff, including auditors, forensic accountants,  
35 building inspectors, engineers, attorneys, and other  
36 experts, as necessary for the proper performance of  
37 its duties;  
38

39 (8) Expend funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
40 investigating committee or, in the interim, funds from



1 the House of Representatives' operating expenses as  
2 necessary for the proper performance of its duties;

3  
4 (9) Provide for the submission, by a witness' own counsel  
5 and counsel for another individual or entity about  
6 whom the witness has devoted substantial or important  
7 portions of the witness' testimony, of written  
8 questions to be asked of the witness by the Chair;

9  
10 (10) Require any government officer or employee to  
11 cooperate with the investigating committee, as  
12 provided in section 21-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

13  
14 (11) Refer matters to appropriate law enforcement agencies,  
15 including the Attorney General, county prosecutors, or  
16 federal authorities, if evidence of criminal conduct  
17 is uncovered;

18  
19 (12) Refer matters to appropriate licensing and regulatory  
20 agencies, including the Department of Commerce and  
21 Consumer Affairs, for enforcement action against any  
22 unlicensed contractors or for other regulatory  
23 violations;

24  
25 (13) Coordinate with the Office of the Auditor and request  
26 additional audits or investigations as necessary; and

27  
28 (14) Exercise all other powers specified under chapter 21,  
29 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the Rules of the House of  
30 Representatives, with respect to an investigating  
31 committee; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigating committee  
34 shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than nine  
35 members, including a Chair and Vice Chair, to be appointed by  
36 the Speaker of the House of Representatives exclusively from the  
37 membership of the House of Representatives; and

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in appointing members to the  
40 investigating committee, the Speaker of the House of  
41 Representatives shall consider including members having



1 expertise or experience in areas relevant to the investigation,  
2 including finance, accounting, construction, public health, law,  
3 or government oversight; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives, may refer to the investigating committee  
7 specific matters that fall within the scope of the investigating  
8 committee's jurisdiction, and the investigating committee shall  
9 work in cooperation with the Speaker of the House of  
10 Representatives for the purposes stated in this measure; and  
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all government officers and  
13 employees of state agencies or departments shall cooperate fully  
14 with the investigating committee and shall provide in a timely  
15 manner all documents, records, and information requested by the  
16 committee; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any person or entity that fails  
19 or refuses to comply with a subpoena or other lawful order of  
20 the investigating committee may be subject to proceedings for  
21 contempt, as provided in sections 21-14 and 21-15, Hawaii  
22 Revised Statutes; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigating committee  
25 shall hold its first organizational meeting within thirty days  
26 after the Auditor's report is released to the Legislature if the  
27 Auditor's final report:  
28

- 29 (1) Alleges mismanagement, violations of procurement  
30 rules, or unlawful actions; or
- 31
- 32 (2) Does not satisfactorily answer questions of  
33 performance; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigating committee  
36 shall:  
37

- 38 (1) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
39 including any proposed legislation, to the House of  
40 Representatives no later than twenty days prior to the  
41 convening of the 2027 Regular Session, unless more



1 time is needed to complete the investigation as  
2 determined by the investigating committee; and  
3  
4 (2) Cease to exist upon the adjournment sine die of the  
5 Regular Session of 2027, unless extended by House  
6 Resolution; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney General,  
10 Auditor, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of  
11 Health, Director of Human Services, members of the Legislature's  
12 Good Government Caucus, Mayor of the County of Maui, Chair of  
13 the Maui County Council, Coordinator on Homelessness, Executive  
14 Director of HomeAid Hawaii, and all other persons and entities  
15 the Speaker of the House of Representatives deems appropriate.  
16

17  
18 OFFERED BY: Elle Cochran

MAR 16 2026

