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## HOUSE 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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31           WHEREAS, establishing a new category of basic shelter  
32 standards will enable the adoption of minimum standards that



1 ensure housing is safe, sanitary, and structurally sound, while  
2 also allowing greater flexibility than full building code  
3 requirements; and  
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5 WHEREAS, adopting basic shelter standards would also  
6 provide a lawful framework for dignified, low-cost housing  
7 solutions, and restricting the use of basic shelter standards to  
8 projects built or conveyed by government agencies or nonprofit  
9 organizations would prevent speculative or profit-driven misuse;  
10 now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2026, that the State Building Code Council is requested to  
15 develop and adopt basic shelter standards to enable low-cost,  
16 rapid-deployment housing solutions; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council  
19 is requested to adopt, amend, or update the State Building Code  
20 pursuant to its authority under section 107-25(6), Hawaii  
21 Revised Statutes, to establish a Basic Shelter Appendix; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council  
24 is requested to consider the following suitable reference  
25 standards for the new Basic Shelter Appendix:  
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- 27 (1) United States Department of Housing and Urban  
28 Development (HUD) Housing Quality Standards (24 C.F.R.  
29 982.401) and HUD Minimum Property Standards;  
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- 31 (2) International Code Council Off-Site Construction  
32 Standards (ICC/MBI 1200, 1205, and 1210), including  
33 provisions for mechanical, electrical, plumbing,  
34 energy efficiency, and water conservation; and  
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- 36 (3) Federal Emergency Management Agency and international  
37 humanitarian shelter standards, which are recognized  
38 benchmarks for emergency and supportive housing; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council  
41 is requested to consult with county building officials, housing  
42 advocates, nonprofit organizations, and industry stakeholders to



1 ensure that the new basic shelter standards reflect Hawaii's  
2 climate, cultural context, and resilience needs; and

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

OFFERED BY:

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