

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DEVELOP A COUNTYWIDE HOUSING PATTERN BOOK TO STREAMLINE PERMIT APPROVALS AND REDUCE REGULATORY BARRIERS FOR SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND WELL-DESIGNED HOMES.

1 WHEREAS, the State faces a severe housing shortage that has
2 made homeownership and stable housing increasingly out of reach
3 for many residents; and
4

5 WHEREAS, increasing the supply of safe, affordable, and
6 community-compatible housing remains a statewide priority, but
7 production is often slowed by complex permitting processes,
8 inconsistent design standards, and regulatory barriers that add
9 cost and delay; and
10

11 WHEREAS, thoughtfully designed housing contributes to
12 dignity, stability, and well-being, and the quality of the built
13 environment, including attractive homes and walkable
14 neighborhoods, can positively affect physical and mental health
15 and support thriving communities; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a rich tradition of climate-responsive
18 architecture, including lanais, natural cross-ventilation,
19 shading, and indoor-outdoor living elements that are well suited
20 to local conditions and culture; and
21

22 WHEREAS, a housing pattern book containing pre-reviewed
23 residential designs that comply with applicable codes can reduce
24 design costs, expedite permitting, and accelerate housing
25 production while maintaining safety, affordability, resilience,
26 and architectural quality; and
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28 WHEREAS, similar programs in places such as New South
29 Wales, Australia, and Los Angeles, California, have demonstrated
30 that pre-approved housing designs can successfully accelerate



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1 construction of accessory dwelling units and low- and mid-rise
2 housing; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
6 that the Department of Housing and Land Management of the City
7 and County of Honolulu is requested to develop a countywide
8 housing pattern book containing pre-reviewed residential
9 building designs that comply with applicable building codes and
10 best practices for safety, affordability, resilience, and
11 architectural quality; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the housing pattern book is
14 requested to:

- 15
16 (1) Include designs suitable for a range of housing types,
17 including accessory dwelling units and low- and
18 mid-rise multifamily buildings; and
19
20 (2) Incorporate culturally appropriate and
21 climate-responsive design elements that promote
22 healthy and attractive living environments; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Housing and
25 Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu is requested
26 to include a design competition to attract innovative and
27 high-quality designs for inclusion in the housing pattern book;
28 and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in developing the housing
31 pattern book, the Department of Housing and Land Management of
32 the City and County of Honolulu is requested to collaborate with
33 county planning departments, architects, builders,
34 energy-efficiency experts, public health professionals, and
35 community stakeholders; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the housing pattern book is
38 requested to be made publicly available; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Planning and
41 Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu is requested to



