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## 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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



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 the City and County of  
10 Honolulu's applicable building codes and best practices for  
11 safety, affordability, resilience, and architectural quality;  
12 and

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

- 16  
17 (1) Include designs suitable for a range of housing types,  
18 including accessory dwelling units and low- and  
19 mid-rise multifamily buildings; and  
20  
21 (2) Incorporate culturally appropriate and  
22 climate-responsive design elements that promote  
23 healthy and attractive living environments; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Housing and  
26 Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu is requested  
27 to include a design competition to attract innovative and  
28 high-quality designs for inclusion in the housing pattern book;  
29 and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in developing the housing  
32 pattern book, the Department of Housing and Land Management of  
33 the City and County of Honolulu is requested to collaborate with  
34 the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County  
35 of Honolulu, architects, builders, energy-efficiency experts,  
36 public health professionals, and community stakeholders; and  
37

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



1 provide streamlined permitting for projects utilizing approved  
2 pattern-book designs; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of  
6 Honolulu, Director of the Department of Housing and Land  
7 Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and Director of  
8 the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County  
9 of Honolulu.

