

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO
CONVENE A COOPERATIVE WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS STATE
PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE COUNTY PERMITTING.

1 WHEREAS, the State submits hundreds of building permit
2 applications each year to county permitting departments; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the allocated costs for these state projects total
5 hundreds of millions of dollars and support thousands of jobs,
6 but the projects often face considerable delays in the permit
7 approval process; and
8

9 WHEREAS, during 2022 and 2023, more than ninety percent of
10 all state building permit applications submitted to the
11 Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of
12 Honolulu took longer than one hundred eighty days to obtain
13 approval, with the average approval length being approximately
14 six hundred days; and
15

16 WHEREAS, this processing time was reported to be
17 approximately six times longer than the average private sector
18 building permit application approval time, and the delays
19 increased state costs by more than \$30 million over a two-year
20 period due to inflation; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the State requires further information to
23 understand and resolve the county-level permitting
24 inefficiencies and other obstacles faced by state projects; now,
25 therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
29 that the Department of Accounting and General Services is
30 requested to convene a cooperative working group to address
31 state projects that require county permitting; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
34 to explore, research, and issue recommendations on streamlining



1 permitting processes exclusively for state projects with county
2 permitting needs; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to consist of the following members:

- 6
7 (1) The Comptroller, or their designee, who shall serve as
8 chair of the working group;
9
10 (2) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on
11 Government Operations;
12
13 (3) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives;
16
17 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
18 Resources, or their designee;
19
20 (5) The Director of Transportation, or their designee;
21
22 (6) The Superintendent of Education, or their designee;
23
24 (7) The President of the University of Hawaii System, or
25 their designee;
26
27 (8) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Community
28 Development Authority, or their designee;
29
30 (9) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance
31 and Development Corporation, or their designee;
32
33 (10) The Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable
34 Development, or their designee;
35
36 (11) The Chief Energy Officer, or their designee;
37
38 (12) The Chief of the Wastewater Branch of the Department
39 of Health, or their designee;
40



S.R. NO. 172

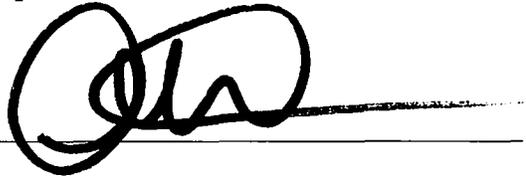
1 (13) The Chair of the State Building Code Council of the
2 Department of Accounting and General Services, or
3 their designee; and
4

5 (14) One representative from each county planning and
6 permitting department, to be invited by the chair of
7 the working group; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
13 of 2028; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Comptroller,
18 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Land
19 and Natural Resources, Director of Transportation, Director of
20 Health, President of the University of Hawaii System, Executive
21 Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority,
22 Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
23 Corporation, Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable
24 Development, Chief Energy Officer, Chair of the State Building
25 Code Council, and Mayor of each county.
26
27
28

OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.