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STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Hashem and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HCR 82, HD1/HR74 HD1 – Requesting the State Building Code Council to Develop and Adopt Basic Shelter Standards to Enable Low-Cost, Rapid-Deployment Housing Solutions

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities offers its **SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS** for **HCR 82, HD1/HR74 HD1**, which requests the State Building Code Council to develop and adopt basic shelter standards to enable low-cost, rapid-deployment housing solutions.

The Council strongly supports efforts to expand housing options that are safe, sanitary, and rapidly deployable, particularly as Hawai'i continues to face urgent housing shortages and disaster recovery needs. For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and others with access and functional needs (AFN), access to stable and appropriate housing is foundational to health, independence, and community living.

As currently written, the measure appropriately recognizes that basic shelter standards should ensure housing is safe, sanitary, and structurally sound. The Council respectfully recommends strengthening this section to explicitly include accessibility as a core component of these standards. Ensuring that basic shelter standards produce housing that is not only safe but also accessible will help prevent the creation of units that are unusable for individuals with disabilities and will reduce the need for costly retrofits in the future. Respectfully, below are our recommendations:

- Page 2 line 1 "a new category of basic shelter standards will enable the adoption of minimum standards that ensure housing is safe, **accessible**, sanitary, and structurally sound, while also allowing greater flexibility than full building code requirements;"

- Page 3 line 39 "State Building Code Council to consult with county building officials, housing advocates, disability advocates, ADA Coordinators, nonprofit organizations, and industry stakeholders to ensure that the new basic shelter standards protect public health, safety, and welfare, and reflect Hawaii's climate, cultural context, and accessibility and resilience needs"

These recommendations are consistent with the intent of the measure and will help ensure that efforts to increase housing supply do not inadvertently create new barriers for individuals with disabilities. Incorporating accessibility at the outset supports more equitable, cost-effective, and sustainable housing development across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support with comments on HCR 82, HD1/HR74, HD1.**

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



## The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia

April 7, 2026

### House Committee on Water and Land

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair/ Representative Dee Morikawa,

Vice Chair Reference: **HCR 82, H.D.1/ HR 74, H.D.1**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, Room 411 at 10:00 am

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 ("Local 675") are one of three licensed crafts in Hawai'i's construction industry. Its member apprentices and journeymen are guided by and licensed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code ("UPC"), published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials ("IAPMO") who's stated purpose is providing minimum requirements and standards for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

Local 675 OPPOSES HCR82, H.D.1/ HR74, H.D.1, which requests the state building code council to develop and adopt basic shelter standards to enable low-cost, rapid - deployment housing solutions, however supports other available alternative housing options that achieve the objectives sought in this measure without exporting local workforce opportunities, jeopardizing public health and safety, and increasing socio-economic co-dependencies that disproportionately impact the most vulnerable by promoting perpetual sub-standard living standards.

**HCR82, H.D.1/ HR74, H.D.1 ignores "minimum" codes and standards whose primary purpose is to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Cost and expedience cannot and should not outweigh life, health, and safety concerns of the public.**

On the heels of the several recent disasters that have crippled numerous areas of our state, the cry for improved resiliency often echoed post disaster should be met with swift action to "harden" and improve our standards, not diminish and "weaken" them.

HCR82, H.D.1/HR74, H.D.1, ignores efforts of the recently concluded SPEED Task

Force and its recommendation for a working group to fully and collaboratively discuss concerns raised in these resolutions. **Rapid deployment of emergency shelters that do not meet minimum building codes and standards should NOT be made permanent and become the “new norm”.**

If the objective is to provide emergency shelters post-disaster, this can be achieved through existing executive powers without policy changes that may have consequential impacts that lower living standards, and reduce resiliency.

Efforts are currently underway at the county level to provide “lower-cost”, locally sourced and off-site constructed modular homes that comply with local building codes and standards, are built by locally licensed tradesmen, inspected by local inspectors, and can be quickly deployed and permitted for permanent dwelling.

HCR82, H.D.1/HR74, H.D.1 if implemented will allow the import and permitting of foreign sub-standard housing, export associated economic benefits of local construction, cause the outflow of local workforce opportunities and living wages, and circumvent our local building codes and standards, which jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of public.

**HCR82, H.D.1/HR74, H.D.1 disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable.**

In stark contrast to Appendix P of the California Building Code which specifically limits occupancy of “emergency” housing to the duration of a declared state of emergency, seeks to establish a pathway to make these emergency units permanent.

Such policy can potentially contribute to social inequality and immobility by enabling long-term substandard living conditions, that foster codependency on centralized, managed services rather than promoting independent housing and force residents to rely on communal facilities, creating a structural and socio-economic dependency, which can trap already vulnerable individuals in cycles of increased vulnerability.

Providing a legal framework or pathway for emergency, temporary, or transitional structures to become permanent for long-term use as these measures request, may normalize lower-quality living conditions and/or expectations for the disproportionately impacting lower income households, the elderly, and the disabled.

While well intended for urgent, temporary relief during shelter crises, the reliance on such housing options to manage homelessness can lead to long-term co-dependency, potentially perpetuating social isolation or reliance on charitable or government services, further exacerbating the very issues HCR82, H.D.1/HR74, H.D.1 apparently seeks to resolve.

For these reasons, we strongly urge this Committee to DEFER these resolutions.