

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ KŪKULU HALE A ME KA HO'OKELE 'ĀINA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, FLOOR 3 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4277 • FAX: (808) 768-4296 • WEBSITE: www.honolulu.gov/dhlm

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KEVIN D. AUGER
DIRECTOR
PO'O
CATHERINE A. TASCHNER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawaii'i House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

SUBJECT: Comments on House Concurrent Resolution 98

Dear Chair Evslin and Committee Members:

The Department of Housing and Land Management (DHLM) appreciates the intent of HCR 98, which requests development of a housing pattern book to help streamline permit approvals and reduce regulatory barriers for safe, affordable, and well-designed homes. The resolution contemplates pre-reviewed residential designs and streamlined permitting for projects that use approved plans.

As noted by the resolution, other jurisdictions have adopted housing pattern books in an attempt to improve predictability, reduce some design costs, and support faster housing production.

If such an approach is pursued, its success will depend heavily on whether the designs are formally adopted by county planning departments and can move efficiently through the actual approval process. Because approval of such plans is critical to the efficacy of any such approach, county planning departments should have a more prominent role in both the development and implementation of the pattern book. While the resolution does call for collaboration with county planning departments, their role should be central.

The resolution would also benefit from clarification regarding its geographic scope. Much of the resolution appears to be directed to the City and County of Honolulu, but some provisions reference other counties. For clarity, DHLM suggests clarifying whether the resolution is intended to apply only to Honolulu or statewide.

The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
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Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Gavin Thornton, Director of Housing Policy, at (808) 768-4277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Auger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kevin D. Auger
Director