
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. In August 2007, Hawaii accepted an invitation
2 by the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development
3 to join the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing
4 through Regulatory Reform. The Call to Action presented an
5 opportunity for Hawaii to receive technical assistance from the
6 federal government and collaborate with other states, counties,
7 municipalities, and organizations to knock down the barriers
8 imposed by governments in hopes of building more affordable
9 housing. Governor Lingle convened a statewide task force
10 comprised of representatives from the counties, business, labor,
11 developers, architects, nonprofit providers of services, the
12 State, and the legislature to carry out the mission of the Call
13 to Action and recommend solutions to address barriers to
14 affordable housing. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to
15 implement the legislative recommendations of the task force.

16 The State recognizes that the need for more affordable
17 housing in Hawaii remains a significant problem affecting all
18 segments of society. The development of residential housing is



1 bridled by significant varying regulations placed on the
2 industry at both the state and county levels. Recent analysis
3 shows that regulations and conditions placed on developers can
4 potentially delay a project for up to seven years. This delay
5 in time leads to a level of uncertainty for the housing
6 industry, adds cost to the total development project,
7 jeopardizes funding streams for affordable housing projects, and
8 ultimately results in a more expensive home for the home buyer
9 or renter. The State recognizes that impact fees, connection
10 fees, and other conditions that are imposed on housing
11 developers during this uncertain time of permit approvals can
12 increase the cost of the home or rental unit by \$10,000 to
13 \$50,000. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide fee
14 waivers and other incentives for the development of affordable
15 housing.

16 SECTION 2. Section 46-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "~~§46-14.5 [Land use density]~~ Incentives and
19 infrastructure [~~; low-income rental units~~]. Notwithstanding any
20 other law to the contrary, the counties [~~are authorized to~~]
21 shall provide [~~flexibility in land use density provisions and~~]
22 incentives for the development of affordable housing that may



1 include but are not limited to density bonuses, height waivers,
2 cluster zoning, greater design flexibility, procurement
3 exemptions, waiving water and sewer connection fees, priority
4 infrastructure financing, and site flexibility. Counties shall
5 provide flexibility in public facility requirements to encourage
6 the development of any rental housing project where at least a
7 portion of the rental units are set aside for persons and
8 families with incomes at or below one hundred [~~forty~~] per cent
9 of the area median family income, of which [~~twenty~~] forty per
10 cent are set aside for persons and families with incomes at or
11 below eighty per cent of the area median family income."

12 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

15

INTRODUCED BY: *Mike I. F. Connolly*

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JAN 23 2009



Report Title:

Affordable Housing; Fees; Incentives

Description:

Increases the supply while decreasing the cost of affordable housing.

