

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONSIDER
BUILDING AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING THAT COULD BE USED FOR
TRANSITIONAL, PERMANENT, OR RENT-TO-OWN HOUSING FOR
HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

1 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the issue of
2 affordable housing came to the forefront of people's minds due
3 to rising home prices driven by a period of unprecedented
4 economic growth in the State; and

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6 WHEREAS, whenever the supply of available housing is less
7 than the demand, low and moderate income housing is often
8 difficult to secure; and

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10 WHEREAS, in these housing markets, land values often
11 outpace the capacity of incomes to keep up, making it difficult
12 or costly to increase housing supply at rents or prices
13 affordable to consumers at income ranges below the local
14 average; and

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16 WHEREAS, the inability to easily find an affordable place
17 to live can cause distress among families and individuals; and

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19 WHEREAS, urban planners have noticed other negative effects
20 on a community's overall health where there is a lack of
21 affordable housing, including scarcer low-cost labor and
22 increased demands on transportation systems; and

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24 WHEREAS, other studies and articles focused on United
25 States cities have also been able to link the parallel trends of
26 housing cost increases and declines in enrollment at local
27 schools; and

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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a severe affordable housing
30 shortfall, with many individuals residing in long-term shelters
31 because no permanent affordable housing is available; and



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 2 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Homeless Service Utilization
 3 Report, around twenty-seven percent of those using shelter or
 4 outreach programs are native Hawaiian or part native Hawaiian;
 5 and

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 7 WHEREAS, homelessness becomes a revolving door for
 8 individuals and families because of a myriad of socioeconomic
 9 problems they are mired in, including unemployment and low
 10 incomes, substance abuse, and chronic health problems; and

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 12 WHEREAS, if the cycle of homelessness is going to be
 13 broken, we need to develop innovative housing solutions that
 14 provide homeless individuals and families with stable housing;
 15 now, therefore,

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 17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
 18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
 19 House of Representatives concurring, that this body urges the
 20 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to consider building
 21 affordable rental housing for homeless native Hawaiians; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that living in affordable rental
 24 housing on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' lands would
 25 not remove individuals from the waiting list for Hawaiian Home
 26 Lands housing; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 30 Hawaiian Homes Commission.

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OFFERED BY: Annane Chun Akland
Yuen K. K.
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