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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING COUNTY PLANNING AND PERMITTING AGENCIES TO SET AND MEET  
EFFICIENCY GOALS AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF  
PERMITS ISSUED EACH YEAR.

1           WHEREAS, the main role of county planning and permitting  
2 agencies in Hawaii is to ensure that plans for new buildings and  
3 other projects meet important safety and other standards before  
4 applicable permits are issued; and

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6           WHEREAS, this important role is not to be taken lightly,  
7 and thorough and accurate vetting of plans is important for  
8 maintaining high building standards; and

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10           WHEREAS, the need to carefully review plans must be  
11 balanced with the need to issue permits in a reasonably  
12 expeditious manner, and these needs do not necessarily conflict  
13 with one another; and

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15           WHEREAS, housing at all price points is desperately needed  
16 to maintain the State's economic equilibrium; and

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18           WHEREAS, potential employees who cannot find affordable  
19 homes may choose not to move to Hawaii, and current residents  
20 affected by stratospheric home prices will leave, which will  
21 negatively affect employment; and

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23           WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
24 and Tourism has forecasted that, from 2015 to 2025, the demand  
25 for additional housing units will increase by 25,847 units in  
26 the City and County of Honolulu, 19,610 in the County of Hawaii,  
27 13,949 in the County of Maui, and 5,287 in the County of Kauai;  
28 and

29



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1           WHEREAS, to address the increasing housing shortage,  
 2 government may need to shift its regulatory stance to a more  
 3 production-oriented stance regarding housing development; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in any organization, efficiencies can be achieved  
 6 by setting goals that encourage organizational change and  
 7 seeking new ways to accelerate business processing, while not  
 8 compromising business objectives; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the building industry, unlike many other  
 11 industries, relies heavily on county planning and permitting  
 12 agencies to grant permission to begin construction; and  
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14           WHEREAS, there are often complaints, whether well-founded  
 15 or not, about parking problems, long lines, and long waiting  
 16 times at county planning and permitting agencies; and  
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18           WHEREAS, delays in the processing and issuance of building  
 19 permits increase the cost of doing business; and  
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21           WHEREAS, while businesses should ensure, to the best of  
 22 their abilities, that plans and permit applications are  
 23 thorough, complete, and comply with applicable building codes  
 24 and other regulations, county planning and permitting agencies  
 25 should also be encouraged to operate as efficiently as possible  
 26 and expedite the permitting process; now, therefore,  
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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 29 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 30 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the respective  
 31 planning and permitting agencies of the various counties are  
 32 urged to establish and meet efficiency goals and significantly  
 33 increase the number of permits issued each year; and  
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35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of each county  
 37 and the heads of the respective planning and permitting agencies  
 38 of the various counties.  
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 40  
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OFFERED BY: 



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*Mark Fittal*

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