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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

### URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO REDUCE WAIT TIMES FOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

1           WHEREAS, according to the Department of Business, Economic  
2 Development, and Tourism, Hawaii needs 65,000 new housing units  
3 in the next ten years to meet growing demand; and  
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5           WHEREAS, a chronic housing shortage has caused and  
6 continues to cause home prices to surge, which increases housing  
7 costs for renters and denies young people and working families  
8 the opportunity of owning a home; and  
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10           WHEREAS, despite Hawaii's desperate need for more housing,  
11 Honolulu takes more than seventeen months on average to approve  
12 a building permit, the longest wait time in the entire nation;  
13 and  
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15           WHEREAS, such delay greatly discourages new housing  
16 construction by raising the cost and risk involved; and  
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18           WHEREAS, a 2016 study by Trulia's chief economist, Dr.  
19 Ralph McLaughlin, concluded that bureaucratic delay in the  
20 permitting process was the greatest single factor contributing  
21 to low housing elasticity, which in turn contributes to a lack  
22 of affordable housing as demand rises; and  
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24           WHEREAS, Honolulu's lengthy permitting delays also make it  
25 harder for residents to start businesses, raising the cost and  
26 risk for potential entrepreneurs; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu's permitting  
29 process is so slow and overburdened that people are often forced  
30 to work around the system, by hiring private third-party  
31 companies to check plans for code compliance; and  
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