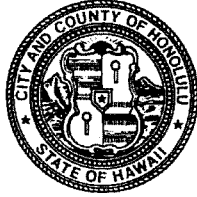


DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041
DEPT. WEB SITE: www.honolulu.dpp.org • CITY WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



KATHY K. SOKUGAWA
ACTING DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY F. T. HIU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawaii House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Brower and Members of the Committee:

Subject: House Resolution No. 4
Relating to County Permit Process

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on House Resolution No. 4, which urges the City and County of Honolulu to reduce wait times for housing construction permits.

We believe this Resolution is not necessary because we are already meeting, or in many cases, exceeding the goals listed in the measure.

We agree that the housing shortage has reached a crisis level and we need to dramatically increase the inventory of affordable homes. The City is addressing this problem through its affordable housing plan, and Bill 58 that is before the City Council will go a long way in meeting this need.

We disagree, however, with the need for House Resolution No. 4 and would like to clarify and correct several points in the Resolution.

First, the Resolution states that, "Honolulu takes more than seventeen months on average to approve a building permit, the longest wait time in the entire nation." We question the source of this statement because our records show an average of 145 days, or less than five months, to approve a single-family residential building permit, and 157 days, or a little more than five months, for more complex commercial permits. DPP staff average about 13 days to review a residential permit application, and 54 days for a commercial permit. Other agencies, such as the state Departments of Health, and Land and Natural Resources, which are part of this review, as well as the applicant's representative, are responsible for the balance of the time it takes to approve a permit.

Second, we are mandated by ordinance to process an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) permit application within 60 days, and we have been meeting that mandate. Homeowners are encouraged to submit a pre-check form to determine if their property is eligible for an ADU, prior

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawaii House of Representatives
February 13, 2018
House Resolution No. 4
Page 2

to going through the expense of hiring a design professional to draw up and submit plans. Since 2016, we have issued more than 350 ADU permits, and about 100 have completed construction.

We track permits on a bi-weekly basis to determine how well we are serving the public, and whether there are any areas that need to be improved. We have implemented several measures to speed up the permit process, such as our online-only application program that allows applicants to self-issue many types of permits at their convenience.

The Building Code exists to protect the health and safety of the public, and we take our responsibility seriously when reviewing an application. We will not overlook a poorly designed plan just for the sake of approving it expeditiously. Of course, there always is room for improvement, and we are constantly reviewing the way we do business to better serve the public.

For the reasons stated above, we believe this Resolution is not necessary and we ask that it be held in Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Sokugawa', written in a cursive style.

Kathy K. Sokugawa
Acting Director

LATE

LATE

HR-4

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:02:37 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

LATE

HR-4

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:48:04 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I most strongly support this resolution.

I would recommend the maximum waiting period be reduced to 3 months from the 6 month period currently specified in the resolution. Long delays have many negative impacts on your constituents including the possibility of increase in costs of labor, materials, and temporary storage and lodging that occurs during a construction period.

If our legislators are serious about ensuring Hawaii residents have adequate housing, they would expedite the passing of a bill advancing the content of this measure.