
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO
CONVENE AN INTERAGENCY ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE TO COMBAT
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND
OPERATIONS OF "MONSTER HOMES" IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii neighborhoods have seen an increase in the
2 number of structures commonly referred to as "monster homes," or
3 large-scale homes that are designed to house several families
4 but are situated on property zoned for single-family residential
5 use; and

6
7 WHEREAS, these monster homes are very large, multi-level
8 residential structures, with some homes reported to have as many
9 as 17 to 25 bedrooms; and

10
11 WHEREAS, these monster homes are homes built to the limits
12 of lot lines and to the maximum permissible height; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the construction of monster homes in single-family
15 neighborhoods have raised concerns, including whether monster
16 homes are in violation of permitting and zoning laws and whether
17 the owners of these homes have appropriate certificates of
18 occupancy or have modified their structures to create illegal
19 units; and

20
21 WHEREAS, residents of neighborhoods that have monster homes
22 note an increase in noise and traffic, limited or no public
23 parking, a strain on the existing community and surrounding
24 infrastructure, greater density in the neighborhood, and erosion
25 of the neighborhood character; now, therefore,

26
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
29 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Labor and



1 Industrial Relations is requested to convene an interagency
2 enforcement task force within the Department of Labor and
3 Industrial Relations for administrative purposes, to combat
4 illegal activities related to the construction and operations of
5 monster homes in the State; and

6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency enforcement
8 task force is requested to assume the following functions to
9 combat illegal activities related to the construction and
10 operations of monster homes in the State:

11

12 (1) Serve as the State's interagency advisory and
13 enforcement entity, with representation from state and
14 county government departments and agencies, to combat
15 illegal activities related to the construction and
16 operations of monster homes;

17

18 (2) Facilitate timely information-sharing among task force
19 members, including through protocols by which
20 participating departments and agencies advise or refer
21 matters of potential investigative interest to other
22 departments and agencies;

23

24 (3) Identify illegal activities related to the construction
25 and operations of monster homes;

26

27 (4) Coordinate task force members' investigative and
28 enforcement resources against violators on multiple
29 fronts, including through the formation of interagency
30 investigative and enforcement teams;

31

32 (5) Assess existing investigative and enforcement methods
33 in Hawaii and in other jurisdictions and develop and
34 recommend strategies to improve those methods;

35

36 (6) Encourage neighborhood boards, community associations,
37 businesses, and individuals to identify violators by
38 soliciting information from the public, facilitating
39 the filing of complaints, and enhancing available
40 mechanisms by which communities and individuals can
41 report suspected violations;



- 1 (7) Solicit the cooperation and participation of
2 prosecutorial agencies at the federal, state, and
3 county levels and other relevant federal, state, and
4 county law enforcement departments and agencies;
5
- 6 (8) Establish procedures for referring cases to prosecuting
7 authorities as appropriate;
8
- 9 (9) Work collaboratively with labor organizations,
10 neighborhood boards, community associations,
11 businesses, and individuals to address illegal
12 activities related to the construction and operations
13 of monster homes by, among other means, disseminating
14 educational materials regarding the applicable laws and
15 increasing public awareness of the harm caused to
16 communities by illegal operations;
17
- 18 (10) Work collaboratively with federal, state, and local
19 social services agencies to provide assistance to
20 vulnerable populations that have been exploited by the
21 illegal construction and operations of monster homes,
22 including immigrant workers;
23
- 24 (11) Identify potential regulatory or statutory changes that
25 would strengthen enforcement efforts, including changes
26 needed to resolve existing legal ambiguities or
27 inconsistencies, as well as potential legal procedures
28 for facilitating individual enforcement efforts;
29
- 30 (12) Consult with representatives of labor organizations,
31 neighborhood boards, community associations, and
32 businesses; members of the Legislature; representatives
33 of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of
34 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; community groups; and other
35 state and county departments and agencies regarding the
36 activities of the task force and its members on ways of
37 improving the effectiveness of the task force,
38 including consideration of whether to establish an
39 advisory panel within a state department;
40
- 41 (13) Submit an annual report no later than twenty days
42 before the convening of each regular session to the



H.C.R. NO. 127

1 Legislature, Governor, Mayor and Council Chair of the
 2 City and County of Honolulu, and Mayors and Council
 3 Chairs of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui
 4 summarizing the task force's activities during the
 5 preceding year; and

- 6
 7 (14) Take appropriate steps to publicize its activities and
 8 actions; and

9
 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 11 include the following in its annual report:

- 12
 13 (1) A description of the task force's efforts and
 14 accomplishments during the year;
 15
 16 (2) Identification of any administrative or legal barriers
 17 that impede the more effective operation of the task
 18 force, including barriers to information-sharing or
 19 joint action;
 20
 21 (3) Proposals, after consultation with representatives of
 22 labor organizations, neighborhood boards, community
 23 associations, and businesses; members of the
 24 Legislature; representatives of the City and County of
 25 Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
 26 community groups; and other state and county agencies,
 27 of appropriate administrative, legislative, or
 28 regulatory changes to strengthen the operations and
 29 enforcement efforts of the task force and reduce or
 30 eliminate any barriers to those efforts; and
 31
 32 (4) Identification of successful preventive mechanisms for
 33 addressing the problem of illegal activities related
 34 to the construction and operations of monster homes;
 35 and

36
 37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every department and agency
 38 within the State's Executive Branch and the Executive Branches
 39 of the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii,
 40 Kauai, and Maui are requested to work collaboratively with the
 41 task force and make all reasonable efforts to:



- 1 (1) Stop contractors and subcontractors who are in
- 2 violation of permitting, licensing, workers'
- 3 compensation, unemployment insurance, prepaid health
- 4 insurance, and other labor and licensing laws from
- 5 working on a construction project to ensure that the
- 6 health, well-being, and safety of all workers on the
- 7 project are protected;
- 8
- 9 (2) Develop and implement policies, rules, and laws that
- 10 allow state and county departments and agencies to
- 11 halt the work, as soon as legally possible, of
- 12 contractors and subcontractors who are in violation of
- 13 permitting, licensing, and labor laws; and
- 14
- 15 (3) Furnish information and assistance as the task force
- 16 reasonably deems necessary to accomplish the purposes
- 17 of the task force; and
- 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency enforcement
 20 task force may hold meetings that are closed to the public
 21 pursuant to section 92-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Mayor of
 25 the City and County of Honolulu; Mayors of the Counties of
 26 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; and Director of Labor and Industrial
 27 Relations.

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H.C.R. NO. 127

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MAR 08 2019

