

---

---

# HOUSE 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, that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is  
30 requested to convene an interagency enforcement task force  
31 within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for



1 administrative purposes, to combat illegal activities related to  
2 the construction and operations of monster homes in the State;  
3 and  
4

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

- 10 (1) Serve as the State's interagency advisory and  
11 enforcement entity, with representation from state and  
12 county government departments and agencies, to combat  
13 illegal activities related to the construction and  
14 operations of monster homes;  
15
- 16 (2) Facilitate timely information-sharing among task force  
17 members, including through protocols by which  
18 participating departments and agencies advise or refer  
19 matters of potential investigative interest to other  
20 departments and agencies;  
21
- 22 (3) Identify illegal activities related to the construction  
23 and operations of monster homes;  
24
- 25 (4) Coordinate task force members' investigative and  
26 enforcement resources against violators on multiple  
27 fronts, including through the formation of interagency  
28 investigative and enforcement teams;  
29
- 30 (5) Assess existing investigative and enforcement methods  
31 in Hawaii and in other jurisdictions and develop and  
32 recommend strategies to improve those methods;  
33
- 34 (6) Encourage neighborhood boards, community associations,  
35 businesses, and individuals to identify violators by  
36 soliciting information from the public, facilitating  
37 the filing of complaints, and enhancing available  
38 mechanisms by which communities and individuals can  
39 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;



1 (13) Submit an annual report no later than twenty days  
2 before the convening of each regular session to the  
3 Legislature, Governor, Mayor and Council Chair of the  
4 City and County of Honolulu, and Mayors and Council  
5 Chairs of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui  
6 summarizing the task force's activities during the  
7 preceding year; and  
8

9 (14) Take appropriate steps to publicize its activities and  
10 actions; and  
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
13 include the following in its annual report:  
14

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every department and agency  
2 within the State's Executive Branch and the Executive Branches  
3 of the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii,  
4 Kauai, and Maui are requested to work collaboratively with the  
5 task force and make all reasonable efforts to:

- 6
- 7 (1) Stop contractors and subcontractors who are in  
8 violation of permitting, licensing, workers'  
9 compensation, unemployment insurance, prepaid health  
10 insurance, and other labor and licensing laws from  
11 working on a construction project to ensure that the  
12 health, well-being, and safety of all workers on the  
13 project are protected;
- 14
- 15 (2) Develop and implement policies, rules, and laws that  
16 allow state and county departments and agencies to  
17 halt the work, as soon as legally possible, of  
18 contractors and subcontractors who are in violation of  
19 permitting, licensing, and labor laws; and
- 20
- 21 (3) Furnish information and assistance as the task force  
22 reasonably deems necessary to accomplish the purposes  
23 of the task force; and
- 24

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

