

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IX, SECTION 5, OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the preamble to the
2 Constitution of the State of Hawaii reserves "the right to
3 control our destiny, to nurture the integrity of our people and
4 culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire."
5 Article I, section 2, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
6 states that "[a]ll persons are free by nature and are equal in
7 their inherent and inalienable rights" and "[a]mong these rights
8 are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,
9 and the acquiring and possessing of property." In order to
10 preserve these rights, the State must take bold action. The
11 quality of life is diminishing for many residents, particularly
12 the seventy per cent of residents in need of housing whose
13 incomes are at or below eighty per cent of the area median
14 income and who find it exceptionally difficult to buy or rent a
15 home for their families.



1 The legislature further finds that although Hawaii has had
2 unmet housing needs for decades, today the State is in crisis
3 mode as more people face the challenge of moving out of state or
4 living in multi-household housing to avoid homelessness. The
5 entire State, government at all levels, the private sector, non-
6 profit agencies, and individuals, must focus on creating the
7 supply to meet the demand for housing for all residents. A
8 guaranteed right to housing demonstrates the State's commitment
9 to housing as a basic right and preserves quality of life.
10 Housing for all residents should be as important a priority as
11 the right to a clean and healthful environment, which is already
12 enshrined in the state constitution.

13 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to
14 article IX, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of
15 Hawaii to require the State to assure that each resident has
16 access to housing, which will become operative only upon
17 legislative action to provide standards and criteria for
18 assuring access to housing.

19 SECTION 2. Article IX, section 5, of the Constitution of
20 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

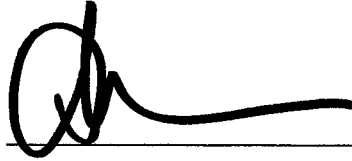
21 "HOUSING, [~~SLUM-CLEARANCE,~~] DEVELOPMENT

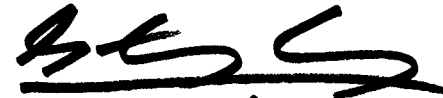


1 of the State of Hawaii.

2

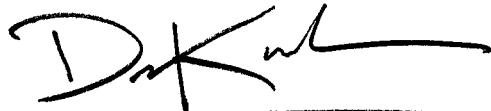
INTRODUCED BY:

























S.B. NO. 635

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Access to Housing

Description:

Proposes an amendment to article IX, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, to require the State to assure that each resident of the State has access to housing, subject to standards and criteria to be provided by the legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

