
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR A PROPOSED LOW-INCOME AND WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN THE FOOTPRINT OF FEDERALLY-FUNDED INTERSTATE HIGHWAY, F.A.P. NO. I-H1-1(13), EWA OF HUGH STREET IN PEARL CITY AND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO USE OHANA ZONE PILOT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.

1 WHEREAS, in 2018, over 6,500 individuals experienced
2 homelessness in Hawaii, according to Partners in Care's annual
3 point in time survey; and
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5 WHEREAS, while market rental rates in Hawaii are among the
6 highest in the nation and overall cost of living is the highest,
7 average household income in the State is among the lowest; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's income to expense gap has consistently
10 widened over the past ten years as rents, particularly in
11 Honolulu, have consistently risen faster than both wages and
12 inflation; and
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14 WHEREAS, the State's stock of affordable housing stock is
15 insufficient to meet demand, especially for the lowest income
16 households, for which affordable housing is available to less
17 than one-third of households; and
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19 WHEREAS, Housing First is a nationally recognized best
20 practice proven to be the most effective and efficient approach
21 to help people experiencing chronic homelessness get and stay
22 off the streets by immediately moving them from the streets or
23 homeless shelters into their own apartments; and
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25 WHEREAS, many county, state, and private interests are
26 working together to find innovative solutions to homelessness
27 and Hawaii's housing crisis that adhere to the Housing First
28 model; and



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1 WHEREAS, one such initiative is a planned transitional
2 housing pilot project on Oahu to be placed on land subject to
3 the jurisdiction of the Federal Highway Administration, use of
4 which requires one or more permits or approvals from the Federal
5 Highway Administration; and

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7 WHEREAS, one location subject to the jurisdiction of the
8 Federal Highway Administration that has been identified as a
9 potential location for a low-income and workforce housing
10 project is the property located beneath the H-1 viaduct,
11 Interstate Highway, F.A.P. No. I-H1-1(13), Ewa of Hugh Street in
12 Pearl City; and

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14 WHEREAS, as part of the planning and preparation for the
15 housing pilot project, the project developers will soon begin
16 submitting preliminary applications for federal approval; now,
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
21 2020, that the Federal Highway Administration is requested to
22 approve a proposed low-income and workforce housing project
23 located within the footprint of federally-funded interstate
24 highway, F.A.P. No. I-H1-1(13), Ewa of Hugh Street in Pearl
25 City; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Highway
28 Administration is requested to timely process applications for
29 permits and approvals necessary for the development of the
30 proposed low-income and workforce housing project on land
31 subject to Federal Highway Administration jurisdiction and
32 timely approve applications that meet eligibility criteria; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to use
35 part of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program funds appropriated in Act
36 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, to support the development of
37 the proposed low-income and workforce housing project under the
38 H-1 viaduct; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Division Director of the



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1 Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway
 2 Administration, Governor, Director of Transportation, and Mayor
 3 of the City and County of Honolulu.
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