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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT 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 Universal  
2 Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations'  
3 General Assembly in 1948 provides that everyone has the right to  
4 a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of  
5 himself and his family, including housing. While the  
6 Constitution of the State of Hawaii states that "[e]ach person  
7 has the right to a clean and healthful environment, as defined  
8 by laws relating to environmental quality", it does not provide  
9 access to housing for all residents.

10           The legislature further finds that although Hawaii has had  
11 unmet housing needs for decades, today the State is in crisis  
12 mode as more people face the challenge of moving out of state or  
13 living in multi-household housing to avoid homelessness. The  
14 entire State, government at all levels, the private sector, non-  
15 profit agencies, and individuals, must focus on creating the  
16 supply to meet the demand for housing for all residents.



1 Prioritizing access to housing demonstrates the State's  
2 commitment to housing as a necessary means of preserving quality  
3 of life. Housing for all residents should be as important a  
4 priority as the right to a clean and healthful environment,  
5 which is already enshrined in the state constitution.

6 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to  
7 article IX, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of  
8 Hawaii to require the State to make housing for its residents  
9 among its highest priorities.

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

12 "HOUSING, SLUM CLEARANCE, DEVELOPMENT

13 AND REHABILITATION

14 Section 5. The State shall place housing for its residents  
15 among its highest priorities and shall implement this provision  
16 by statute. The State shall have the power to provide for, or  
17 assist in, housing, slum clearance and the development or  
18 rehabilitation of substandard areas. The exercise of such power  
19 is deemed to be for a public use and purpose."

20 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
21 be as follows:



1 "Should the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended  
2 to require that the State place housing for its residents  
3 among its highest priorities and shall implement this  
4 provision by statute?"

5 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
7 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
8 the State of Hawaii.



**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 place housing for its residents among its highest priorities and to implement this provision by statute. (SD1)

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

