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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AND IDENTIFY AND SECURE OTHER FORMS OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN POPULATION AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO ASSIST AND TRAIN INDIVIDUAL HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND PROCESSES INVOLVED IN EXPENDING AND UTILIZING NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-  
2 Determination Act (NAHASDA) was passed in 1996 and established a  
3 block grant program to transform the way American Indians and  
4 Alaska Natives were provided affordable housing on rural Indian  
5 reservations and Alaska Native villages; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the United States Congress amended NAHASDA in 2000  
8 by adding Title VIII to provide similar funding for Native  
9 Hawaiian families whose total household income is at or below  
10 eighty percent of the established area median income levels for  
11 their respective counties, and who are eligible to reside on  
12 Hawaiian home lands; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the stated objectives of the NAHASDA are to assist  
15 native communities in achieving the goals of economic self-  
16 sufficiency and self-determination, which should include  
17 recognizing the special and independent nature of each Hawaiian  
18 homestead; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the federal government's financial investment into  
21 affordable housing activities in Hawaiian homestead communities  
22 through the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant has been  
23 steadily decreasing since its highest award of \$12,700,000 in



1 2010 to only \$2,000,000 in 2019, 2018, and 2017, with no federal  
2 appropriations made in 2016; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing a critical affordable  
5 housing shortage and more funding, not less, is needed to  
6 support infrastructure development, home construction and  
7 rehabilitation programs, direct loans, and housing subsidies for  
8 Native Hawaiian families; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is the  
11 designated recipient for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant  
12 as administered by the United States Department of Housing and  
13 Urban Development; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, designating individual Hawaiian homesteads in the  
16 State of Hawaii to be direct recipients of Native Hawaiian  
17 Housing Block Grants, in addition to the Department of Hawaiian  
18 Home Lands, could expedite the effective utilization of these  
19 funds and expand affordable housing opportunities for low-income  
20 families and individuals living on, or desiring to live on  
21 Hawaiian homesteads; now, therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
24 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
25 Representatives concurring, that the United States Department of  
26 Housing and Urban Development and the Congress of the United  
27 States are strongly urged to provide additional federal funds  
28 for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants under the Native  
29 American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of  
32 Housing and Urban Development and the Congress of the United  
33 States are strongly urged to identify and secure other forms of  
34 direct assistance to the State of Hawaii to address the  
35 affordable housing needs of the Native Hawaiian population; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home  
38 Lands is urged to assist and train individual Hawaiian  
39 homesteads on the technical aspects and processes involved in  
40 expending and utilizing Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants;  
41 and

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1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
3 United States, United States Secretary of Housing and Urban  
4 Development, United States Secretary of the Interior, Majority  
5 Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States  
6 House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes  
7 Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office  
8 of Hawaiian Affairs, and members of Hawaii's congressional  
9 delegation.

