

MAR 06 2020

SENATE 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
4

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
8

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
13

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
24

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

6
 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

13
 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,

18
 19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 20 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 21 Federal Highway Administration is requested to approve a
 22 proposed low-income and workforce housing project located within
 23 the footprint of federally-funded interstate highway, F.A.P. No.
 24 I-H1-1(13), Ewa of Hugh Street in Pearl City; and

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

32
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to use
 34 part of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program funds appropriated in Act
 35 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, to support the development of
 36 the proposed low-income and workforce housing project under the
 37 H-1 viaduct; and



38
 39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 40 Resolution be transmitted to the Division Director of the
 41 Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway

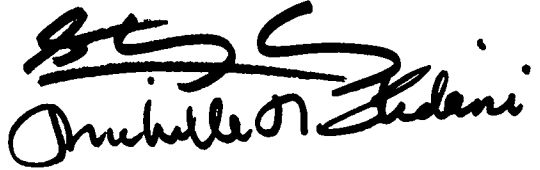
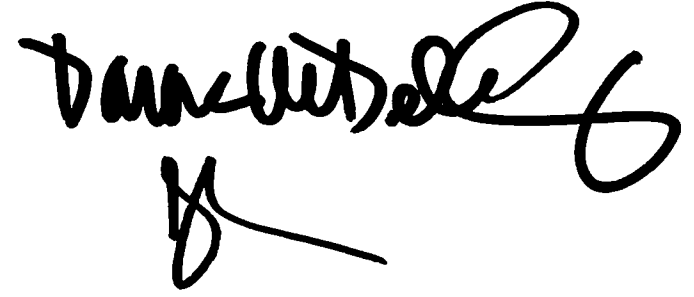


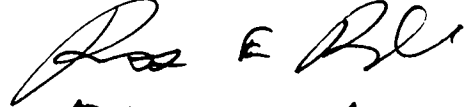




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1 Administration, Governor, Director of Transportation, and Mayor
2 of the City and County of Honolulu.
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