

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
AND THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCILS, TO CONTRACT REVIEW OF
PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS TO THIRD PARTY
CONSULTANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
2 19) pandemic led to an unprecedented economic crisis that
3 decimated Hawai'i's economy and caused its gross domestic product
4 to plummet; and

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6 WHEREAS, the drastic decline in economic activity
7 disproportionately affected the State's most vulnerable
8 populations; and

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10 WHEREAS, the forced shutdown of many sectors of the State's
11 economy triggered mass layoffs and furloughs causing the State's
12 seasonally adjusted unemployment to surge from 2.4 percent in
13 March 2020 to a historical high of 22.3 percent in April 2020;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, record unemployment, mass layoffs and furloughs,
17 and increased daily expenses for Hawai'i residents exacerbated
18 issues already being faced by renter households due to
19 historically high housing cost burdens; and

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21 WHEREAS, economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
22 exacerbated the burden on renter households, as more than eleven
23 thousand Hawai'i tenants fell behind on rent payments and forty
24 percent of rental tenants lost their jobs; and

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26 WHEREAS, while the dissemination of COVID-19 vaccines has
27 allowed Hawai'i's economy to slowly rebound from the devastating
28 impacts of mass layoffs and economic shutdowns, data from the
29 University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization showed that
30 the number of individuals facing homelessness will rise; and



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2 WHEREAS, the decline and cessation of COVID-19 pandemic-
3 related aid, subsidies, and relief for Hawai'i's residents,
4 including renter households, will increase significant
5 challenges to households struggling to attain jobs, make
6 payments on past due rent, and return to normal life; and
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8 WHEREAS, in February 2022, inflation in the United States
9 hit a record 7.5 percent, increasing the burden on Hawai'i
10 residents who are continuing to struggle from the impacts of the
11 COVID-19 pandemic; and
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13 WHEREAS, immediate action is imperative to mitigate the
14 affordable housing crisis that is both ongoing and exacerbated
15 by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
20 and Natural Resources, through the State Historic Preservation
21 Division, is requested to contract its review of proposed state
22 projects, projects on privately owned historic property, and
23 projects affecting historic properties to third party
24 consultants if the projects involve the development of
25 affordable housing; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after an initial evaluation, if
28 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is not able to
29 provide its written concurrence or non-concurrence within sixty
30 days of the filing of the request, the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources is requested to contract a third-party
32 consultant to conduct the review; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
35 Natural Resources is requested to receive pre-approval of the
36 appropriate island burial council before contracting services
37 with a third-party consultant; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
40 contract third-party consultants who meet the educational and
41 experiences standards and qualifications for preservation



1 professionals as determined by the State Historic Preservation
2 Division Rules; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that third-party consultants are
5 requested to provide a recommendation to the Department of Land
6 and Natural Resources within thirty days of the filing of the
7 request with the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
10 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
17 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State
18 Historic Preservation Division; Island Burial Councils of
19 Hawaii, Kauai and Niihau, Maui and Lanai, Molokai, and Oahu.

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22 OFFERED BY:

