

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROCESS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
PROJECTS IN THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO
ADDRESS HAWAII'S HOUSING SHORTAGE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i faces a crisis of housing availability and
2 affordability; and
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4 WHEREAS, the high cost of housing in Hawai'i is primarily
5 the result of insufficient housing production and affordable
6 housing inventory; and
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8 WHEREAS, while there are numerous barriers inhibiting the
9 development of new housing in Hawai'i, one of the most
10 significant is the lack of adequate infrastructure, including
11 infrastructure necessary to deliver potable water; and
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13 WHEREAS, the regulation of water resources is administered
14 by multiple agencies at the county and state level, depending on
15 the designation of the water source in question and the quantity
16 of water being used; and
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18 WHEREAS, installation of water use infrastructure requires
19 approval from the Commission on Water Resource Management, which
20 currently lacks a process to identify and prioritize permitting
21 for affordable housing developments; and
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23 WHEREAS, after years of permitting new drinking water
24 sources through an administrative process, the Commission on
25 Water Resource Management recently began processing well
26 permits, which has not been a normal procedure for areas that
27 are not designated as a groundwater management area; and
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29 WHEREAS, without a clearly defined process to respond to
30 permit applications for new drinking water sources, the
31 development of affordable housing in the State will continue to
32 be delayed by the lack of available potable water; now,
33 therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
3 that the Commission on Water Resource Management is requested to
4 develop and implement a permitting process that supports the
5 preauthorization for the development of affordable housing
6 throughout the State and especially in rural areas; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Water
9 Resource Management is requested to consider the establishment
10 of a water resource management for affordable housing
11 development working group that convenes upon a federal agency or
12 authority's initiation of an inquiry or investigation relating
13 to a permit application order to address the inquiry or
14 investigation; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Water
17 Resource Management is requested to consider the following
18 composition of a water resource management for affordable
19 housing working group:
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- 21 (1) A member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
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- 23 (2) One person designated by the mayor of the county in
24 which the permit application was submitted;
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- 26 (3) One person designated by the Department of Hawaiian
27 Home Lands; and
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- 29 (4) One person designated by the Department of Water
30 Supply of the county in which the permit application
31 was submitted; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's
34 recommendations to remediate the concerns of the federal agency
35 or authority should be submitted to the Commission on Water
36 Resource Management, who is requested to then adopt rules in
37 accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
38 implement the process developed by the working group; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Commission
3 on Water Resource Management.
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OFFERED BY:

