
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION AND THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCILS, TO CONTRACT THE 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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1 WHEREAS, the decline and cessation of COVID-19 pandemic-
2 related aid, subsidies, and relief for Hawai'i's residents,
3 including renter households, will increase significant
4 challenges to households struggling to attain jobs, make
5 payments on past due rent, and return to normal life; and
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7 WHEREAS, in February 2022, inflation in the United States
8 hit a record 7.5 percent, increasing the burden on Hawai'i
9 residents who are continuing to struggle from the impacts of the
10 COVID-19 pandemic; and
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12 WHEREAS, immediate action is imperative to mitigate the
13 affordable housing crisis that is both ongoing and exacerbated
14 by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
18 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through the
19 State Historic Preservation Division, is requested to contract
20 its review of proposed state projects, projects on privately-
21 owned historic property, and projects affecting historic
22 properties to third-party consultants if the projects involve
23 the development of affordable housing; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after an initial evaluation, if
26 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is not able to
27 provide its written concurrence or non-concurrence within sixty
28 days of the filing of the request, the Department of Land and
29 Natural Resources is requested to contract a third-party
30 consultant to conduct the review; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
33 Natural Resources is requested to receive pre-approval of the
34 appropriate island burial council before contracting services
35 with a third-party consultant; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
38 contract third-party consultants who meet the educational and
39 experiences standards and qualifications for preservation
40 professionals as determined by the State Historic Preservation
41 Division Rules; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that third-party consultants are
2 requested to provide a recommendation to the Department of Land
3 and Natural Resources within thirty days of the filing of the
4 request with the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
7 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and
8 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
9 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
14 Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State Historic
15 Preservation Division; and Island Burial Councils of Hawaii,
16 Kauai and Niihau, Maui and Lanai, Molokai, and Oahu.

