

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1563 -22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 , 2022

RE: H.R. No. 170

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Housing, to which was referred H.R. No. 170  
entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE COUNTIES TO UTILIZE AN EMPTY  
HOMES TAX AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE  
STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the counties to  
utilize an empty homes tax, similar to the Vancouver, British  
Columbia empty homes tax, as a means of addressing affordable  
housing in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Church of the Crossroads, Faith Action for Community  
Equity, and one individual. Your Committee received comments on  
this measure from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that property taxes in the State are  
among the lowest in the nation. In addition, about one fourth of  
all housing in the State is owned by people who do not reside in  
Hawaii. Your Committee also finds that a significant number of  
residential properties are vacant, which has a negative impact on  
the State's housing supply by taking housing units out of the  
housing market and contributing to the scarcity of affordable  
housing. An empty homes tax, which is a tax imposed on property  
owners to reduce empty or under-utilized residential property,

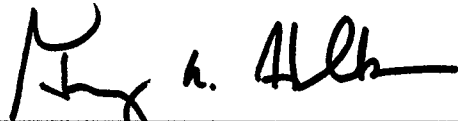
2022-2598 HR170 HSCR HMSO



would help convert existing investment properties into housing for residents, encourage long-term rentals, and generate revenues.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 170 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Housing,

*for*   
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NADINE K. NAKAMURA, Chair



