
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR THE
ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

1 WHEREAS, a 2019 study by the Department of Business,
2 Economic Development, and Tourism found that the State will
3 require an additional 50,156 homes by the year 2025, with the
4 City and County of Honolulu requiring 22,168 new units, Hawaii
5 County requiring 13,303 new units, Maui County requiring 10,404
6 new units, and Kauai County requiring 4,281 new units; and
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8 WHEREAS, there has been a lack of measurable progress at
9 the county level to enact policies that will stimulate housing
10 production to meet the projected demand; and
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12 WHEREAS, existing laws and county procedures regarding the
13 adoption and implementation of building codes impede the
14 building permit process; and
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16 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council is responsible for
17 establishing a state building code through the timely adoption
18 of national building codes, which is based on:
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- 20 (1) The state fire code, as adopted by the State Fire
21 Council;
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- 23 (2) The Uniform Plumbing Code;
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- 25 (3) The International Building Code, International
26 Residential Code, and International Energy
27 Conservation Code, as published by the International
28 Code Council;
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- 30 (4) The National Electrical Code, as published by the
31 National Fire Protection Association; and



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2 (5) Hawaii design standards implementing the criteria
3 pursuant to Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii,
4 2005, as applicable to emergency shelters and
5 essential government facilities; and
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7 WHEREAS, the process to obtain a building permit in the
8 State is often redundant, costly, and time consuming for
9 builders and residents; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council should be required
12 to take into account the experiences and climate of the current
13 building industry, including economic impact on future buyers;
14 now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is
19 requested to convene a task force to examine and make
20 recommendations on the existing procedures for the adoption of
21 the state building code; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 25 (1) Consider whether the current state building code
26 adoption process is effective and relevant;
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28 (2) Consider whether county building codes should be
29 eliminated in favor of a single statewide building
30 code; and
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32 (3) Examine the extended time frame and financial impacts
33 that building code adoption has on construction and
34 housing prices in the State; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
37 consist of the following individuals:
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- 39 (1) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, who is
40 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task
41 force;
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- 1 (2) The State Comptroller, or the State Comptroller's
2 designee;
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- 4 (3) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu's
5 Department of Planning and Permitting, or the
6 Director's designee;
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- 8 (4) The Director of the County of Hawaii's Planning
9 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 11 (5) The Director of the County of Kauai's Planning
12 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 14 (6) The Director of the County of Maui's Planning
15 Department, or the Director's designee;
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- 17 (7) One member from the House of Representatives, to be
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives;
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- 21 (8) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
22 President of the Senate;
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- 24 (9) Two representatives from the Building Industry
25 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
26 construction and construction costs;
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- 28 (10) Two representatives from the General Contractors
29 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
30 construction and construction costs;
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- 32 (11) Two representatives from the Subcontractors
33 Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in
34 construction and construction costs; and
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- 36 (12) Two representatives from NAIOP Hawaii with knowledge
37 and experience in construction or development and
38 associated costs; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Department of
41 Accounting and General Services are requested to provide
42 administrative support to the task force; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Comptroller; Directors of the Planning Departments of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii; President of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii; President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii; and President of NAIOP Hawaii.

