
SENATE 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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1 (5) Hawaii design standards implementing the criteria
2 pursuant to Act 5, Special Session Laws of Hawaii,
3 2005, as applicable to emergency shelters and
4 essential government facilities; and
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6 WHEREAS, the process to obtain a building permit in the
7 State is often redundant, costly, and time consuming for
8 builders and residents; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council should be required
11 to take into account the experiences and climate of the current
12 building industry, including economic impact on future buyers;
13 now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
17 that the Governor is requested to convene a task force to
18 examine and make recommendations on the existing procedures for
19 the adoption of the state building code; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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23 (1) Consider whether the current state building code
24 adoption process is effective and relevant;
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26 (2) Consider whether county building codes should be
27 eliminated in favor of a single statewide building
28 code; and
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30 (3) Examine the extended time frame and financial impacts
31 that building code adoption has on construction and
32 housing prices in the State; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
35 consist of the following individuals:
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37 (1) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, who is
38 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task
39 force;
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41 (2) The State Comptroller, or the State Comptroller's
42 designee;



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- (3) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Director of the County of Hawaii's Planning Department, or the Director's designee;
- (5) The Director of the County of Kauai's Planning Department, or the Director's designee;
- (6) The Director of the County of Maui's Planning Department, or the Director's designee;
- (7) One member from the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (8) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (9) Two representatives from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in construction and construction costs;
- (10) Two representatives from the General Contractors Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in construction and construction costs;
- (11) Two representatives from the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii with knowledge and experience in construction and construction costs; and
- (12) Two representatives from NAIOP Hawaii with knowledge and experience in construction or development and associated costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Department of Accounting and General Services are requested to provide administrative support to the task force; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
3 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
5 2025; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Comptroller;
9 Directors of the Planning Departments of the counties of Hawaii,
10 Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of Planning and
11 Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; President of the
12 Building Industry Association of Hawaii; President of the
13 General Contractors Association of Hawaii; President of the
14 Subcontractors Association of Hawaii; and President of NAIOP
15 Hawaii.

