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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND MAUI COUNTY TO INVESTIGATE AND ENFORCE APPLICABLE LAWS AGAINST LANDLORDS WHO ARE ENDING RENTAL AGREEMENTS TO HOUSE FEMA-ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH THE DIRECT LEASE PROGRAM OR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, nearly three thousand households were displaced by  
2 the August 2023 Maui wildfires; and

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4           WHEREAS, the Legislature is examining potential tools for  
5 rent control in Maui County; and

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7           WHEREAS, Maui is experiencing a housing crisis due to the  
8 lack of available units; and

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10          WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and  
11 the State are utilizing short-term housing through the Direct  
12 Lease Program, Rental Assistance Program, and non-congregate  
13 shelters to house both FEMA-eligible and ineligible households;  
14 and

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16          WHEREAS, FEMA's Direct Lease Program has inflated the  
17 rental market by paying three hundred sixty-six percent above-  
18 market rates to landlords who will house FEMA-eligible  
19 households; and

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21          WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services Rental Assistance  
22 Program (RAP) pays above-market rates to house FEMA ineligible  
23 households; and

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25          WHEREAS, incidents have been reported on Maui where  
26 homeowners are not renewing lease agreements with existing  
27 tenants, displacing them to make room for FEMA-eligible  
28 households through the Direct Lease Program and the ineligible  
29 households supported through RAP; and



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WHEREAS, these incidents have raised concerns about fairness, housing stability, and the impact on tenants who are being displaced; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's emergency proclamation established a moratorium on evictions in Lahaina; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs has a duty to investigate such incidents and ensure compliance with relevant regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer and Affairs and Maui County are urged to investigate and enforce applicable laws against landlords who are ending rental agreements to house FEMA-eligible households through the Direct Lease Program or the Department of Human Services Rental Assistance Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Mayor of the County of Maui.

OFFERED BY:



