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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE THE STATE'S RENTAL SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE TO HOUSING OWNERS WHO RENT OR LEASE TO QUALIFIED KUPUNA A MORTGAGE PROPERTY WITHIN DESIGNATED LAVA ZONES.

WHEREAS, the eruption of Kilauea on the Big Island over five years ago continues to impact residents living in the lava zones, as yearly homeowners insurance premiums have increased more than six times what they were a number of years ago; and

WHEREAS, housing in the lava zones was once an affordable option for many residents, but the growing insurance expenses have resulted in higher rents being charged in the area to offset the insurance increases; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five percent of older adults in the State are classified as low income; and

WHEREAS, many kupuna often live on a fixed income from pensions or other retirement plans and social security; and

WHEREAS, many kupuna potentially face homelessness as rents continue to skyrocket; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of living in the State, fixed income and complex health needs of older adults, rapidly increasing rents, and the declining availability of affordable housing make rental assistance for qualifying older adults a necessity; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority administers the State's Rent Supplement/Rent Subsidy Program to help eligible families pay for part of their monthly rent; and

WHEREAS, this program should be utilized to help provide homeowners insurance premium assistance to housing owners who

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rent or lease to qualified kupuna to help reduce their rent costs; 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 Hawaii Public Housing Authority is requested to utilize the State's Rent Supplement Program to provide homeowners insurance premium assistance to housing owners who rent or lease to qualified kupuna a mortgaged property located within an area designated as lava zone 1 or lava zone 2, as identified by the United States Geological Survey Lava-Flow Hazard Zone Map, Island of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

OFFERED BY: