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**CITY COUNCIL URGES THE STATE TO MAKE AFFORDABLE
HOUSING MORE ACCESSIBLE**

The Honolulu City Council today voted to adopt a resolution for the Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to amend its rules relating to the state assisted housing program.

Resolution 19-266, introduced by Councilmember Brandon Elefante of District 8, requests that the HHFDC reduce its Area Median Income (AMI) requirements for 201H projects, which are first approved by the HHFDC.

“Too many local families can’t afford affordable housing,” said Councilmember Elefante. “By amending the rules and providing more units at the lower income of 100% AMI, more families will be able to qualify for assistance with the high cost of housing in Honolulu.”

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sets the low-income limits for each county or metropolitan area. For a family of four in urban Honolulu, the current area median income is \$99,000.

“It’s important to note that all taxpayers subsidize 201H housing units because these subsidies provide opportunities for developers to build the badly needed affordable housing units,” said Councilmember Elefante. “These precious taxpayer dollars and subsidies should be focused on providing assistance to those local families who need it the most.”

Resolution 19-266 asks the HHFDC to revise its definition of “lower cost housing” to say that only households making 100% AMI or below should be eligible for the extensive exemptions and waivers of fees. This would then focus the limited taxpayer provided subsidies on units in projects that provide rental or for sale housing for those households earning not more than 100% AMI and below.

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