HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-274

RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTION ON THE HOUSING CRISIS AND HOMELESSNESS PRIOR TO THE 2028 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

WHEREAS, a lack of affordable housing in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") has resulted in an ongoing housing crisis that is characterized by outmigration of Hawai'i residents, homelessness, and families being priced out of the market for new homes; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts by the City and by the State of Hawai'i ("State") to streamline the permitting process and expedite construction, the housing crisis has not eased, exacerbated by high interest rates and extraordinary demand; and

WHEREAS, according to a report by UHERO, the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, in 2023 only 20 percent of local households could afford a mortgage on the median-priced, single-family home in Hawai'i at $875,000; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in 2022 there was a shortage of 26,360 rental units for extremely low-income renters in Hawai'i, and 71 percent of these renters were severely cost burdened, spending over half of their income on housing costs and utilities; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2024 O'ahu Point in Time Count ("PITC"), which collects information and demographics on homeless populations, financial and employment issues are among the most common reasons for homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 O'ahu PITC recorded the largest yearly increase in unsheltered homeless individuals from data collected since 2010, and there was a 12 percent increase in the overall homeless population over 2023; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 O'ahu PITC noted that an inability to pay for rent is one of the leading causes of homelessness in the City, with many local families living paycheck to paycheck and vulnerable to homelessness if they experience a sudden financial setback such as job loss, a medical emergency, or a rent increase; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, according to news reports and the Institute for Human Services, one in 10 homeless individuals was not from Hawai'i, including individuals

who underestimated the high cost of living and the difficulty in securing housing in the City and quickly depleted their savings; and

WHEREAS, the 2028 Summer Olympics will be hosted by Los Angeles, California ("LA"), which, according to the 2024 LA County PITC, has a homeless population of 75,312 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Olympic host cities have often removed unhoused people from the areas surrounding Olympic sites and sent them elsewhere, often with little support; and

WHEREAS, most recently, the French government bussed thousands of homeless individuals out of the City of Paris for the 2024 Summer Olympics; and

WHEREAS, the displacement of homeless people in preparation for the Olympic Games is a common practice that has occurred at least as far back as 1984, the last time LA hosted the Olympics, and has affected at least a million people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, as LA prepares to host the 2028 Summer Olympics, the City Council ("Council") is concerned about Olympics-driven displacement and how it may **exacerbate homelessness in other places, including O'ahu**, which has more than 100 direct flights from LA weekly; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it is important to take preemptive measures to manage the current housing and homelessness crises in the City before they grow larger due to the unintended consequences of Olympics-driven displacement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and City Administration to take action on the housing crisis and homelessness prior to the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California by establishing and implementing a plan to preemptively counter increasing homelessness, including but not limited to any impact of Olympics-driven displacement of homeless persons by Los Angeles, California; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Coordinator of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Executive Director of the Office of Housing, and the Director of Community Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilmembers

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 12 2024

Honolulu, Hawai'i

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 24-274

Introduced: 11/12/24 By: CALVIN K.Y. SAY Committee: HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

Title: URGING THE GOVERNOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTION ON THE HOUSING CRISIS AND HOMELESSNESS PRIOR TO THE 2028 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

11/12/24	INTRO	Introduced.
11/20/24	HSH	Reported out for adoption. CR-351 5 AYES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA, WEYER
12/11/24	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 6 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 3 ABSENT: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, TUPOLA

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER