



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEWS RELEASE

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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**GOVERNOR LINGLE ESTABLISHES AFFORDABLE HOUSING
REGULATORY BARRIERS TASK FORCE**

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle has established by executive order the Affordable Housing Regulatory Barriers Task Force to identify regulatory barriers that add to the cost of housing or prevent construction of housing in the state. The Governor announced the new task force today at the blessing and dedication of the Courtyards at Mililani Mauka Affordable Rental Apartments, as part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration’s ongoing effort to find solutions to the affordable housing shortage in Hawai‘i.

“Our Administration has been working collaboratively with diverse sectors of the community to address the affordable housing shortage in the state,” said Governor Lingle. “Working together, we have made progress in preserving affordable housing units as well as developing opportunities for families and seniors through public-private partnerships. This task force, which is another important part of the process, will help identify government regulations, practices or policies that can significantly increase the time and costs involved in building a home.”

The task force will review information concerning regulatory barriers, including state and county regulatory requirements, fees, the permitting and approval process, obsolete or duplicative building codes, outdated building methods and inefficient use of the latest advanced technology.

The members will recommend to the Governor solutions that can help reduce the cost of affordable housing.

(more)

The task force builds upon a nationwide initiative by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help local communities address the need for regulatory reform and reduce the costs of affordable housing. As part of this effort, HUD created the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform that encourages communities across the nation to examine their own regulations and to share information, ideas and solutions for reducing these barriers with one another. Governor Lingle has committed Hawai'i to be an active participant in this National Call to Action.

Hawai'i's task force is made up of 21 voting members appointed by the Governor, and includes housing representatives from state government agencies, the Legislature, experts and nonprofit organizations. The members will serve on a volunteer basis. The task force will be subject to Hawai'i Sunshine Laws.

The Governor formed the Affordable Housing Regulatory Barriers Task Force under the authority provided to her by state law (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 26-41) to establish temporary boards and commissions to gather information or furnish advice for the executive branch.

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