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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

May 11, 2018

Director of Council Services  
Maria E. Zielinski

RECEIVED

2018 MAY 11 AM 10:11

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Mike White  
Council Chair  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair White:

**SUBJECT: URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO  
INCORPORATE VISITABILITY STANDARDS IN THE  
COUNTY'S BUILDING CODE FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL  
CONSTRUCTION (PAF 18-136)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO INCORPORATE VISITABILITY STANDARDS IN THE COUNTY'S BUILDING CODE FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Cochran".

ELLE COCHRAN  
Councilmember

paf:ajw:18-136a

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 18-198

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO INCORPORATE VISITABILITY STANDARDS IN THE COUNTY'S BUILDING CODE FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, a November 2016 study titled, "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Hawaii with a Focus on People with Disabilities" ("Analysis"), prepared by the Center on Disability Studies at University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Education ("CDS"), estimated that the County of Maui is home to a disabled population of approximately 16,681 people with 1,045 individuals under the age of eighteen, 8,159 between the ages of eighteen and sixty-four years, and 7,494 over sixty-four years; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism states that the number of individuals sixty-five years of age and older are projected to increase from 14.5 percent in 2010 to 23.6 percent in 2040 with about one in three individuals having mobility and self-care-related disabilities; and

WHEREAS, aging population growth will pose significant challenges to the State and Maui County's economic, physical, and social structures; and

WHEREAS, the number of multigenerational households in Hawaii has always been high and will continue to increase as the state's aging population grows, causing the cost of housing to rise and economic pressures to build-up; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") has also recognized the challenges of rapid population aging and increased urbanization by introducing the Age-Friendly Cities Initiative; this initiative encourages municipalities to adapt their structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people; and

WHEREAS, in October 2015, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu ("City") announced that the American Association of Retired

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Persons (“AARP”) Network of Age-Friendly Communities, in affiliation with WHO, approved the City’s Age-Friendly City Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, visitability standards were introduced in the City building code to be consistent with the implementation of the City’s Age-Friendly City Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, visitability standards were included in volume 1 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (“HUD”) 1996 “Fair Housing Planning Guide,” and continue to be used; and

WHEREAS, the Analysis recommends six visitability standards:

- 1) At least one zero-step entrance into a home, on an accessible route leading from a driveway or public sidewalk;
- 2) Interior doors with 32 inches of clear passage space, enough for a wheelchair user to navigate through;
- 3) One wheelchair-accessible full bath on the main floor of the home, large enough to access in a wheelchair and close the door;
- 4) One accessible bedroom on the main floor of the home;
- 5) Hallways with a minimum 36 inches of clear passage to allow maneuvering space for a wheelchair user; and
- 6) Receptacles placed 18 and 24 inches above finish floor; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, specifications for the six visitability standards were added to the International Code Council A117.1 Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, are increasingly being adopted by municipalities and states, and are promoted by state and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Analysis further states that “a growing number of architects and builders are coming to realize that including visitability features increases construction costs only minimally, or not at all, and is a selling point appreciated by many home buyers of all ages”; and

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WHEREAS, the Analysis highly recommends that local governments make visitability a requirement of building codes; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of six visitability standards in the County's building code for new residential construction will greatly increase the standard of living and inclusiveness of the County's residential communities for one of its most vulnerable populations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby urges the Administration to propose the incorporation of visitability standards into the County's building code for new residential construction; and
2. That it hereby urges the Department of Public Works to conduct an analysis of the feasibility of incorporating the six visitability standards in the County's building code for new residential construction, as outlined by the Analysis; and
3. That it hereby encourages the Department of Public Works to report back to the Council within 60 days of the adoption of this Resolution regarding its findings and recommendations including a recommendation regarding proposed legislation, if appropriate; and
4. That certified copies be transmitted to the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Director of the Department of Public Works.