
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AMEND TITLE IV-A OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT TO ALLOW TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
FAMILIES FUNDS TO BE USED BY STATES TO BUILD TRANSITIONAL
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, as of 2020, Hawaii has collected more than
2 \$380,000,000 in unspent Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
3 (TANF) block grant funds, which is three hundred eighty-five
4 percent of the State's annual TANF block grant of \$99,000,000;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, according to the Center on Budget and Policy
8 Priorities, Hawaii's unspent TANF reserves are the second
9 highest in the nation as a proportion of states' annual block
10 grants; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest rates of
13 homelessness in the nation; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the least affordable rental housing in
16 the nation; and
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18 WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing
19 Coalition's 2022 "Out of Reach" report, an individual would need
20 to earn \$31.15 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment in
21 Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, a minimum wage worker would need to work one
24 hundred twenty-three hours a week to be able to afford a one-
25 bedroom apartment at fair market rent; and
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1 WHEREAS, although TANF funds can be used to provide rent
2 subsidies, such subsidies are meant to be used on a short-term
3 basis; and
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5 WHEREAS, developing a more robust inventory of affordable
6 rental units will reduce rents statewide and enable more of the
7 State's low-income families to be able to afford housing; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's
13 congressional delegation is urged to introduce and support
14 legislation to amend Title IV-A of the Social Security Act to
15 allow Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to be used
16 by states to build transitional supportive housing and
17 affordable rental housing,
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Congressional
20 delegation consider redirecting unspent TANF funds to the
21 Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used in the
22 State where the unspent TANF funds originated for the purpose of
23 developing affordable housing; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
27 congressional delegation.

