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# HOUSE 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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27           WHEREAS, although TANF funds can be used to provide rent  
28 subsidies, such subsidies are meant to be used on a short-term  
29 basis; and  
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1           WHEREAS, developing a more robust inventory of affordable  
2 rental units will reduce rents statewide and enable more of the  
3 State's low-income families to be able to afford housing; now,  
4 therefore,  
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6           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2023, that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged  
9 to introduce and support legislation to amend Title IV-A of the  
10 Social Security Act to allow Temporary Assistance for Needy  
11 Families funds to be used by states to build transitional  
12 supportive housing and affordable rental housing; and  
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14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Congressional  
15 delegation consider redirecting unspent TANF funds to the  
16 Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used in the  
17 State where the unspent TANF funds originated for the purpose of  
18 developing affordable housing; and  
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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's  
22 congressional delegation.

