

MAR 14 2007

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
TO RECOMMEND A STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "UNDEREMPLOYMENT".

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Revised Statutes does not contain a  
2 definition of "underemployment"; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, there are no county ordinances, administrative  
5 rules, or legislative measures passed in the past few years  
6 defining "underemployment"; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, despite extensive use of the term in economic  
9 studies and government reports, including the Hawaii Workforce  
10 Development Council's 2007 Report to the Governor and 2005  
11 Report to the Governor on the Year Four Implementation of the  
12 Workforce Investment Act (2005 Report) and the Department of  
13 Labor and Industrial Relations' "Workforce Investment Act Asian  
14 Pacific Islander Earmark Grant," the term remains vague and  
15 broad; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the term is used extensively by the Department of  
18 Labor and Industrial Relations in workforce development programs  
19 and issues; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the 2005 Report, as well as previous reports over  
22 the years, includes a definition of "underemployed" as "an  
23 individual who is working part-time but desires full-time  
24 employment, or an individual whose employment is not  
25 commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of  
26 educational attainment"; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, having a definition for this term could also be  
29 useful for purposes of calculating the amount of child support  
30 payments due from a parent who may not be fully employed or  
31 otherwise considered to be below full earning capacity; and  
32



1 WHEREAS, unofficial estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor  
2 Statistics report over 24,000 underemployed individuals in the  
3 State of Hawaii; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, a statutory definition of the term would be of  
6 immense help to monitor Hawaii's true economic condition and  
7 labor productivity, which would enable elected officials and  
8 executive branch administrators to make more informed and  
9 educated decisions affecting the livelihood of the people of  
10 Hawaii; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, a search of other state laws indicates that the  
13 following states have statutory definitions of underemployment:  
14 California, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and  
15 Pennsylvania, which could serve as possible models for Hawaii;  
16 now, therefore,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
21 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study to recommend a  
22 definition of "underemployment" in the various contexts as it is  
23 used in state and county governments; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review of  
26 other state and federal laws; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
29 Bureau is requested to consult for purposes of the study with  
30 the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Hawaii  
31 Workforce Development Council; Department of Business, Economic  
32 Development, and Tourism; Hawaii Child Support Enforcement  
33 Agency; appropriate county agencies; appropriate federal  
34 agencies; the U.S. Census Bureau; major labor unions; and major  
35 employer associations; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
38 Bureau is requested to report findings and recommendations,  
39 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
40 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
41 2008; and

42  
43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
2007-2224 SCR SMA.doc



# S.C.R. NO. 187

1 of the Legislative Reference Bureau; the Director of Labor and  
 2 Industrial Relations; the Director of Business, Economic  
 3 Development, and Tourism; and members of Hawaii's Congressional  
 4 delegation.

5  
 6  
 7

4. Ali Eghsh

OFFERED BY:

S.S.T.R.

Randy de Palo  
 Franne Chun Oakland

Yoko L  
 Francis H. Young

April J. Jay  
 Will Eyer

