
SENATE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC FINANCIAL EDUCATION AND ASSET-BUILDING TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that for many Hawaii
2 residents, the cost of purchasing a home, pursuing post-
3 secondary education, and starting a business is becoming
4 prohibitively expensive; and

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6 WHEREAS, traditional public assistance programs where
7 household income thresholds determine eligibility are not
8 necessarily successful in supporting lower-income families who
9 are making the transition to increased economic
10 self-sufficiency; and

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12 WHEREAS, many of these traditional programs focus on
13 helping participants obtain and maintain jobs but penalize
14 participants for accumulating what few assets they are able to
15 afford; and

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17 WHEREAS, when income-based policies are coupled with
18 asset-based policies, they provide a comprehensive means for
19 lower-income families to achieve greater financial independence
20 and well-being; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
24 that the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Human Services and
25 Public Housing and the House Committee on Human Services and
26 Housing are requested to convene a statewide task force on
27 public financial education and asset-building; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the task force
30 is to develop policy recommendations regarding universal,
31 matched savings accounts for newborns; statewide standards for
32 financial and economic education for public- and private-sector
33 employees; and the elimination of asset limits as a bar to
34 eligibility for public benefit programs; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purposes of
2 establishing universal, matched savings accounts for newborns,
3 the task force is requested to consider the following factors:
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- 5 (1) The savings vehicle, including the rate of return,
6 safety of the investment, account insurance, ease of
7 managing the account, and the ease of making various
8 forms of deposits;
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- 10 (2) State contributions, including the state contribution
11 to the initial deposit, the amount, time frame, and
12 eligibility requirements to receive state matching
13 funds; mechanisms to distribute state contributions;
14 and estimated costs and benefits;
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- 16 (3) Ownership of the account, including the impact on
17 eligibility for student financial aid, public
18 assistance and other public benefits, and taxation of
19 account earnings and distributions;
20
- 21 (4) Financial education, including the provision of
22 financial education to children and families, and
23 access to additional financial services;
24
- 25 (5) Restrictions, including withdrawal or distribution
26 from the account prior to the child's reaching age
27 eighteen, the portability of the account, and limits
28 on permissible uses of the account;
29
- 30 (6) Revenue sources, including sources for the initial
31 deposit and any savings match, and the feasibility of
32 a state match for deposits for children in lower-
33 income families;
34
- 35 (7) Mechanisms for data collection and tracking; and
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- 37 (8) All other factors that the task force deems important
38 to program design; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purposes of creating
41 financial education standards for public- and private-sector
42 employees, the task force is requested to consider:
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- 44 (1) Curriculum content and delivery mechanisms;



- 1
2 (2) Financial education standards coordination and
3 training;
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5 (3) Strategies for public-private partnerships to offer
6 financial and economic education to employees; and
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8 (4) All other factors that the task force deems important
9 in program design; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the conveners
12 specified, the task force membership is requested to consist of
13 the Directors of the following departments or agencies, or the
14 Directors' designees: the Department of Budget and Finance, the
15 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Department of
16 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Department of
17 Human Services, the Department of Taxation, the Department of
18 Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Department of Human
19 Resources Development, as well as the Superintendent of
20 Education, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
21 Hawaiian Affairs, and the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes
22 Commission, or their designees; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the members
25 specified, it is requested that the task force also consist of
26 one designee from each of the following offices: the Speaker of
27 the House of Representatives; the President of the Senate; and
28 the President of the University of Hawaii; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the members
31 specified, the task force shall also include one representative
32 from the following categories: asset-building in Hawaii; the
33 individual development account program under chapter 257, Hawaii
34 Revised Statutes; grassroots organizing; poverty law; the
35 business industry; child advocacy; rural community advocacy;
36 organized labor; the banking industry; credit unions; investment
37 service providers; and financial education organizations; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may consult with
40 national organizations with relevant experience, as appropriate;
41 and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
44 submit a report containing its findings and recommendations,



1 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
2 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
3 2010; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the House
8 Committee on Human Services and Housing, the Chair of the Senate
9 Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, the Director of
10 Finance, the Director of Business, Economic Development and
11 Tourism, the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the
12 Superintendent of Education, the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes
13 Commission, the Director of Human Resources Development, the
14 Director of Human Services, the Director of Labor and Industrial
15 Relations, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
16 Hawaiian Affairs, the Director of Taxation, and the President of
17 the University of Hawaii.

