HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT RANDOM DRUG TESTING OF ADULT INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SUSPENDING THIS ASSISTANCE IF THE INDIVIDUAL TESTS POSITIVE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

WHEREAS, the recent economic crisis facing the nation has
resulted in increasing numbers of individuals seeking government
assistance; and

5 WHEREAS, government assistance programs are funded through 6 taxpayer dollars and state and local governments are currently 7 facing economic crises of their own often struggling to find 8 funding for even the most basic public services; and

10 WHEREAS, although the statistics are not staggering, a 11 recent report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services 12 Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services 13 found that 9.6 percent of people living in households that 14 receive government assistance used illicit drugs in the previous 15 month; and

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WHEREAS, since individuals receiving public assistance are receiving this aid through the use of taxpayer dollars, it has been suggested that requiring adult individuals receiving public assistance to undergo random drug testing is the prudent thing to do to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being appropriately used for the provision of this assistance; and

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24 WHEREAS, while legal questions have been raised regarding 25 random drug testing of individuals receiving government 26 assistance, this issue should be explored further to determine 27 its feasibility; now, therefore,

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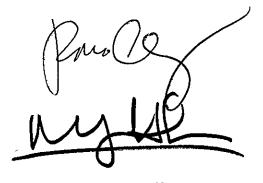
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 1 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 2 3 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human Services is urged to explore the possibility of allowing 4 5 government agencies providing government assistance to conduct random drug testing of adult individuals receiving public 6 7 assistance and suspending this assistance if the individual tests positive for substance abuse; and 8 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in exploring the possibility of 11 conducting random drug testing, the Department of Human Services 12 shall consider legal questions raised regarding this issue and 13 whether random drug testing of individuals receiving public 14 assistance would be feasible; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human 17 services shall report its findings and recommendations, 18 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later 19 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 20 2012; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human 24 Services. 25

OFFERED BY:



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