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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING CONGRESS TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A  
FEDERAL LIVING WAGE JOBS-FOR-ALL PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the United States has more income and wealth  
2 inequality than any major developed country, according to a 2015  
3 University of California at Berkeley study; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Americans with incomes in the top 1 percent  
6 averaged more than forty times more income than those with  
7 incomes in the bottom 90 percent, according to the 2015 study;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, wealthy Americans in the top 1 percent  
11 collectively hold 38.6 percent of the nation's wealth, while  
12 those in the bottom 90 percent collectively hold only 22.8  
13 percent, according to a 2016 Pew Research Center analysis of  
14 Federal Reserve data; and  
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's minimum wage is \$10.10, but the living  
17 wage for a single adult working full-time in Honolulu is \$16.03,  
18 and the living wage for an adult with a dependent child is  
19 \$28.11, according to data from the Massachusetts Institute of  
20 Technology; and  
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22 WHEREAS, due to the large disparity between the current  
23 minimum wage and a living wage, many individuals work two or  
24 more jobs to maintain a basic standard of living for themselves  
25 and their families; and  
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27 WHEREAS, while the United States posted strong employment  
28 gains early in 2018, more than two hundred thousand Americans  
29 still filed for unemployment benefits in late February 2018; and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to having negative effects on  
2 communities and the economy, unemployment is associated with,  
3 among other things, increased rates of physical and mental  
4 illness, alcohol and drug abuse, failed relationships, and other  
5 personal and social challenges; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that a public sector option  
8 to provide jobs to support efforts to reduce unemployment and  
9 remove barriers to better paying work for all Americans merits  
10 consideration by Congress; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that a public sector  
13 option will also help address underemployment, which is part-  
14 time work by individuals who would prefer to work full-time, and  
15 discouraged workers, which are individuals who want a job but  
16 have stopped looking because they do not believe work is  
17 available; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the United States  
20 to address the nation's income and wealth inequality so that all  
21 Americans may enjoy a quality life and have financial security;  
22 now, therefore,

23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
26 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged to  
27 explore the feasibility of establishing a federal living wage  
28 jobs-for-all program; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro  
32 Tempore, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United  
33 States Senate, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader  
34 of the United States House of Representatives, and Hawaii's  
35 congressional delegation.

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38 OFFERED BY: 

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