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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

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  
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31           WHEREAS, in addition to having negative effects on  
32 communities and the economy, unemployment is associated with,  
33 among other things, increased rates of physical and mental



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1 illness, alcohol and drug abuse, failed relationships, and other  
2 personal and social challenges; and

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

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

15  
16 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the United States  
17 to address the nation's income and wealth inequality so that all  
18 Americans may enjoy a quality life and have financial security;  
19 now, therefore,

20  
21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2018, that Congress is urged to explore the feasibility of  
24 establishing a federal living wage jobs-for-all program; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore, Majority  
28 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the  
29 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United  
30 States House of Representatives, and Hawaii's congressional  
31 delegation.

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OFFERED BY:



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