
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
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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,
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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
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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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