
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR HOTEL
EMPLOYEES, OR ENTITIES ENTIRELY OWNED BY HOTEL EMPLOYEES,
TO PURCHASE HOTELS AND CONVERT THEM INTO EMPLOYEE-OWNED
COOPERATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii, the
2 accommodation and food services sector of the State's economy
3 employed 113,417 people in 2020; and
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5 WHEREAS, throughout the State, many hotels are privately
6 owned by multinational corporations having directors,
7 executives, and shareholders that are not residents of the
8 State; and
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10 WHEREAS, hotels are bought and sold on the open market
11 regularly; and
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13 WHEREAS, numerous industries throughout the United States
14 operate successfully as cooperatives; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are numerous examples of successful
17 employee-owned hotels throughout the world, including The Priory
18 Hotel in Scotland, the hotels of Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants
19 and Hotels in North Carolina, and the hotels of TPI Hospitality
20 in Minnesota; and
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22 WHEREAS, developing a process for employees of a bankrupt
23 hotel to purchase and operate that hotel as a cooperative
24 business could prevent increased unemployment in the State; and
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26 WHEREAS, accordingly, it is appropriate for the State to
27 provide grants to match funds for hotel employees to buy hotels
28 and establish employee-owned hotel cooperatives; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2023, that the Department of Business, Economic
33 Development, and Tourism is urged to establish a program to



1 provide grants for hotel employees, or entities entirely owned
2 by hotel employees, to purchase hotels and convert them into
3 employee-owned hotel cooperatives; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
6 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to require
7 employees and entities to provide matching funds on a
8 dollar-for-dollar basis to qualify for grants under the program;
9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
13 Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:



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