
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AMEND TITLE IV-A OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT TO ALLOW UNSPENT TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES FUNDS TO BE USED BY STATES TO BUILD
TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE RENTAL
HOUSING

1 WHEREAS, as of 2020, Hawaii has collected more than
2 \$380,000,000 in unspent Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
3 (TANF) block grant funds, which is three hundred eighty-five
4 percent of the State's annual TANF block grant of \$99,000,000;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, according to the Center on Budget and Policy
8 Priorities, Hawaii's unspent TANF reserves are the second
9 highest in the nation as a proportion of states' annual block
10 grants; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest rates of
13 homelessness in the nation; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the least affordable rental housing in
16 the nation; and
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18 WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing
19 Coalition's 2022 "Out of Reach" report, an individual would need
20 to earn \$31.15 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment in
21 Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, a minimum wage worker would need to work one
24 hundred twenty-three hours a week to be able to afford a one-
25 bedroom apartment at fair market rent; and
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1 WHEREAS, although TANF funds can be used to provide rent
2 subsidies, such subsidies are meant to be used on a short-term
3 basis; and
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5 WHEREAS, developing a more robust inventory of affordable
6 rental units will reduce rents statewide and enable more of the
7 State's low-income families to be able to afford housing; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's congressional
13 delegation is urged to introduce and support legislation to
14 amend Title IV-A of the Social Security Act to allow unspent
15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to be redirected
16 to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used by
17 states to build transitional supportive housing and affordable
18 rental housing; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
22 congressional delegation.
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