

MAR 09 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AMEND TITLE IV-A OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT TO ALLOW 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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27 WHEREAS, although TANF funds can be used to provide rent
28 subsidies, such subsidies are meant to be used on a short-term
29 basis; and

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1 WHEREAS, developing a more robust inventory of affordable
2 rental units will reduce rents statewide and enable more of the
3 State's low-income families to be able to afford housing; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
8 that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged to introduce and
9 support legislation to amend Title IV-A of the Social Security
10 Act to allow Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to be
11 used by states to build transitional supportive housing and
12 affordable rental housing; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
16 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: 

By Request

