THE SENATE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 109

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT THE SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT.

WHEREAS, the Social Security Act was originally passed in 1 2 1935 to provide essential benefits and financial security to retired individuals, senior citizens, and persons with 3 disabilities; and 4 5 WHEREAS, individuals receiving Retired Insurance Benefits 6 constitute the largest group of Social Security beneficiaries, 7 8 with over fifty-two million retired workers or family members 9 receiving monthly payments as of 2023; and 10 11 WHEREAS, more than ten thousand individuals from the baby boomer generation become eligible for Retirement Insurance 12 13 Benefits from Social Security every day; and 14 WHEREAS, as a result of the retirement of the large baby 15 boomer generation, it is projected that under existing law, the 16 17 trust fund reserves for the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted 18 by 2034; and 19 20 21 WHEREAS, it its projected that a depletion of the two Social Security trust funds will result in only seventy-eight 22 23 percent of scheduled benefits being paid to beneficiaries on a timely basis after 2034; and 24 25 26 WHEREAS, in a response to this projected cut in benefits, concerned congressional leaders introduced the Social Security 27 2100 Act in 2023, which is intended to permanently improve 28 Social Security's long-term health by extending the solvency of 29 30 the two Social Security Trust Funds without increasing taxes on the middle class; and 31

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1 WHEREAS, according to United States Representative John B. 2 3 Larson, co-introducer of the Social Security 2100 Act, the Social Security 2100 Act increases benefits by two percent 4 across the board for all Social Security beneficiaries for the 5 first time in fifty-two years, improves the cost-of-living 6 adjustment to reflect economic inflation experienced by seniors, 7 and increases benefits for lower income retirees; and 8 9 WHEREAS, the Social Security 2100 Act also restores student 10 benefits up to age twenty-six for dependent children of disabled 11 12 and deceased workers; increases access to benefits for children living with grandparents or other relatives; repeals the 13 windfall elimination provision and government pension offset 14 15 that currently penalizes certain public servants; ends the fivemonth waiting period to receive disability benefits; and 16 increases benefits by an additional five percent for seniors who 17 18 have been receiving benefits for fifteen years or more; and 19 WHEREAS, the Social Security 2100 Act would cut taxes for 20 twenty-three million middle-income beneficiaries while paying 21 for benefits by applying the Federal Insurance Contributions Act 22 to earnings over \$400,000 and adding an additional 12.4 percent 23 24 net investment income tax for taxpayers making over \$400,000; 25 and 26 27 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Social Security remains a well-funded public entitlement without being privatized through 28 29 self-directed retirement accounts that would subject beneficiaries, and particularly retiree savings accounts, to 30 31 considerable risk and redirect Social Security assets into the coffers of Wall Street brokerages and investment banks; and 32 33 WHEREAS, the United States Congress must act urgently to 34 preserve Social Security benefits for current and future 35 36 retirees; now, therefore, 37 38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the 39 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States 40 Congress is urged to adopt the Social Security 2100 Act; and 41 42

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is strongly encouraged to reject any legislation that would lead to the privatization of Social Security benefits; and 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro 7 Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United 8 States House of Representatives, and each member of Hawaii's 9 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhad