

MAR 07 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A BABY  
BONDS WORKING GROUP.

1           WHEREAS, intergenerational poverty undermines social and  
2 economic wellness; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, according to the 2009 paper "Childhood and  
5 Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing  
6 up Poor" by Robert L. Wagmiller, Jr., and Robert M. Adelman,  
7 "individuals who grow up in poor families are much more likely  
8 to be poor in early adulthood"; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, Hawaii's high cost of living makes overcoming  
11 intergenerational poverty difficult for working families; and

12  
13          WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing  
14 Coalition's 2023 Out of Reach study, a minimum wage employee  
15 must work one hundred seven hours per week to afford a one-  
16 bedroom rental home at fair market rent in Hawaii; and

17  
18          WHEREAS, the same study also found that a worker must earn  
19 \$41.83 per hour to afford a two-bedroom rental unit without  
20 being cost burdened; and

21  
22          WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's living  
23 wage calculator estimates a livable wage for a Hawaii resident  
24 who is a single adult and has no children to be \$27.33 per hour  
25 and a single adult with one child to be \$51.83 per hour; and

26  
27          WHEREAS, longstanding systemic inequality and its continued  
28 effect on government policy has created unacceptable outcomes  
29 across the spectrum of child well-being for children in  
30 communities of color, including but not limited to Native



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1 Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, Filipino, Black, Hispanic,  
2 Asian, and immigrant households; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout  
5 further exacerbated entrenched disparities for children of color  
6 and their families; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, in 2021, Connecticut became the first state to  
9 pass an initiative that invests directly in children born into  
10 poverty known as "baby bonds"; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the program sets aside funds for each baby born in  
13 Connecticut whose birth is covered by Medicaid, with those funds  
14 to be held, managed, and invested by the Connecticut Office of  
15 the Treasurer; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, when participating children reach adulthood, they  
18 are eligible to claim funds to be used for buying a home, paying  
19 for higher education or job training, starting a business, or  
20 saving for retirement; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Connecticut's baby bonds program is designed to  
23 narrow the wealth gap and spur long-term economic growth for  
24 Connecticut's families and economy; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, a baby bonds program could significantly alleviate  
27 intergenerational poverty in Hawaii; now, therefore,

28  
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
32 Human Services is requested to convene a working group to  
33 consider the creation of a baby bonds program for Hawaii; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
36 to consist of the following members:

37  
38 (1) The Director of Human Services or the Director's  
39 designee, to serve as Chairperson of the working  
40 group;

41  
42 (2) The Director of Taxation or the Director's designee;



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- 1
- 2 (3) The Director of Finance or the Director's designee;
- 3
- 4 (4) One member from the Senate, to be appointed by the
- 5 President of the Senate;
- 6
- 7 (5) One member from the House of Representatives, to be
- 8 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 9 Representatives;
- 10
- 11 (6) The Executive Director of the University of Hawaii
- 12 Economic Research Organization or the Executive
- 13 Director's designee;
- 14
- 15 (7) One representative from a nonprofit public interest
- 16 organization specializing in public health, as invited
- 17 by the Chairperson;
- 18
- 19 (8) One representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 20 organization specializing in anti-poverty policies for
- 21 low-income individuals, as invited by the Chairperson;
- 22
- 23 (9) One representative from a nonprofit public interest
- 24 organization specializing in advocacy for children, as
- 25 invited by the Chairperson; and
- 26
- 27 (10) Other relevant stakeholders as recommended by the
- 28 working group and invited by the Chairperson; and
- 29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 31 to:

- 32
- 33 (1) Develop recommendations for a baby bonds program that
- 34 reduces intergenerational poverty and wealth
- 35 inequality in the State;
- 36
- 37 (2) Suggest eligibility criteria for a baby bonds program
- 38 operated by the State;
- 39
- 40 (3) Coordinate with other stakeholders, agencies, and
- 41 programs within and outside of the State that are



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1 working to implement baby bonds programs or reduce  
2 intergenerational poverty; and

3

4 (4) Perform an analysis of the Connecticut baby bonds  
5 program to determine what aspects of the program may  
6 be beneficial to incorporate into a baby bonds  
7 initiative for Hawaii; and

8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
13 of 2025; and

14

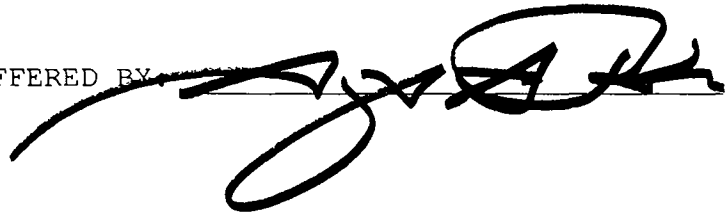
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
17 Governor, Director of Human Services, Director of Taxation,  
18 Director of Finance, and Executive Director of the University of  
19 Hawaii Economic Research Organization.

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21

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OFFERED BY \_\_\_\_\_

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.