
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 11-17, 2026, AS "STRONG START, STRONG
ECONOMY WEEK".

1 WHEREAS, investing in policies and programs that support
2 maternity and early childhood stability is essential in breaking
3 the cycle of generational poverty and offers better outcomes for
4 the State's economic development and growth within local
5 communities; and

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7 WHEREAS, according to the American Academy for Pediatrics,
8 low socioeconomic status and the health challenges that arise
9 from living in poor socioeconomic circumstances is a
10 contributing factor to intergenerational poverty; and

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12 WHEREAS, the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained,
13 Employed) threshold is the average annual income needed to
14 afford basic necessities, which for a single adult is \$39,384,
15 and for a family with two adults, one infant, and a preschooler
16 is \$107,796, while the federal poverty level in Hawaii for each
17 respective group is \$17,310 and \$35,880 per year; and

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19 WHEREAS, forty percent of Hawaii households are currently
20 living below the ALICE threshold as of 2024, and according to
21 the Department of Human Services, ALICE households are the
22 largest consumers of social services in the State; and

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24 WHEREAS, working families are the backbone of the State's
25 economy and contribute to the prosperity and well-being of
26 communities and society through their dedication and hard work;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a workforce shortage in jobs that
30 require higher education, trade training, and subject matter
31 specialty; and



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2 WHEREAS, ALICE workers, in a stabilized situation, would be
3 able to join the workforce in skilled jobs that offer higher
4 wages, allowing younger generations to gain experience in entry
5 level roles that otherwise would have been occupied by ALICE
6 workers; and
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8 WHEREAS, research shows that the early years of a child's
9 life are critical for cognitive, social, and emotional
10 development; and
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12 WHEREAS, strengthening resources for unemployed and ALICE
13 families during maternity and early childhood impacts the
14 stability of children, thereby reducing the risk for lifelong
15 instability, increasing opportunities to overcome
16 intergenerational poverty, and enabling these children to help
17 fulfill the State's skilled workforce needs; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that this body recognizes
22 January 11-17, 2026, as "Strong Start, Strong Economy Week"; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during "Strong Start, Strong
25 Economy Week", the Representatives of House Districts 4 and 5
26 are requested to work with local, national, and international
27 scholars, organizations, and local initiatives to explore
28 connections between family stability and the impact that early
29 childhood stability has on the economy and highlight how social
30 services can serve as a long-term workforce solution; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that the
33 positive impacts of stability in early childhood increase the
34 long-term potential for stable cognitive, social, and emotional
35 development, leading to more productive adults within society
36 who are more prepared to overcome intergenerational poverty,
37 complete postsecondary education, and fulfill the State's
38 skilled workforce needs; and
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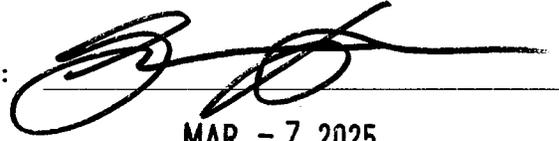
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House
42 of Representatives and President of the Senate.



H.C.R. NO. 155

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR -7 2025

