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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP DATA DRIVEN ANALYSES OF THE IMPACTS OF TAX POLICIES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MIGRATION PATTERNS, AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING PUBLIC POLICY.

1           WHEREAS, the Economic Research Organization at the  
2 University of Hawaii (UHERO) operates as a public-private  
3 partnership, leveraging state funding to secure additional  
4 grants, contracts, and philanthropic contributions, thereby  
5 allowing UHERO to expand its research and deliver actionable  
6 insights that benefit Hawai'i's communities; and  
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8           WHEREAS, UHERO plays a critical role in providing  
9 independent, high-quality economic analysis to guide state  
10 leaders in making informed policy decisions; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the need for rigorous, data-driven research has  
13 never been greater as Hawai'i policymakers confront increasing  
14 economic uncertainty, shifting federal policies, and ongoing  
15 challenges such as high cost of living, lack of affordable  
16 housing, economic inequality, ensuring that non-residents and  
17 tourists contribute fairly to our shared costs, and tax policy  
18 shifts at the local and national level; and  
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20           WHEREAS, complex challenges demand informed and innovative  
21 solutions that require precise, data-driven policymaking; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the state's ability to fully utilize its own data  
24 remains constrained by limited analytical capacity, data sharing  
25 protocols and limitations, and data reliability and security  
26 issues; and  
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28           WHEREAS, recent progress made by the Department of  
29 Taxation, Enterprise Technology Services, and UHERO to



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1 collaborate and enhance capacity to develop advanced models and  
 2 analyses, and resolve issues related to the use of non-  
 3 aggregated data, will strengthen research capabilities at both  
 4 UHERO and DoTAX, enabling the state to make better use of its  
 5 data to design, analyze, and evaluate tax policy; and

6  
 7 WHEREAS, this progress will play a pivotal role in  
 8 designing better-targeted policies and improve policy evaluation  
 9 to ensure programs achieve their intended goals, deliver  
 10 valuable insights to refine tax policies, equip policymakers  
 11 with the tools to create fair, effective, and efficient tax  
 12 policies that address Hawai'i's most pressing challenges; now,  
 13 therefore,

14  
 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 16 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 17 of 2025, that TAX and UHERO collaborate with any other agency or  
 18 organization to:

19 (1) Provide rigorous analysis addressing the overall impact  
 20 of state, local, and federal tax policies on cost of living,  
 21 affordable housing, migration flows, and economic development  
 22 opportunities;

23 (2) Use tax data to analyze how policies shape population  
 24 and workforce movements;

25 (3) Develop targeted policies that reduce burdens on low-  
 26 and moderate-income households;

27 (4) Evaluate strategies to ensure non-residents and  
 28 visitors contribute fairly while minimizing impacts on  
 29 residents;

30 (5) Identify barriers preventing eligible residents from  
 31 claiming tax credits;

32 (6) Determine the efficiency and efficacy of tax credits  
 33 and tax exemptions; and

34  
 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
 37 Department of Taxation and the Executive Director of UHERO.

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 39  
 40 OFFERED BY:



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