
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION TO ESTABLISH A TAX AMNESTY DAY TO ALLOW BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS TO PAY UNPAID TAXES WITHOUT PENALTIES OR FINES.

1 WHEREAS, the State relies on tax revenue to fund essential
2 public services, including education, health care,
3 infrastructure, and public safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, some businesses and individuals may have
6 outstanding tax liabilities due to financial hardships,
7 administrative errors, or unintentional noncompliance; and
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9 WHEREAS, penalties and fines associated with unpaid taxes
10 can discourage individuals and businesses from coming forward to
11 settle their outstanding liabilities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Tax Amnesty Day would
14 provide a one-time opportunity for businesses and individuals to
15 voluntarily pay their outstanding taxes without incurring
16 additional penalties and fines; and
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18 WHEREAS, similar tax amnesty programs in other
19 jurisdictions have successfully encouraged voluntary compliance,
20 increased tax revenue collection, and reduced administrative
21 burdens on tax enforcement agencies; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 2009, the Hawaii Department of Taxation offered
24 a Tax Fresh Start Program to provide an opportunity for eligible
25 taxpayers to pay their back taxes to the State while avoiding
26 penalties and potentially avoiding referral for criminal
27 prosecution; and
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29 WHEREAS, under the Tax Fresh Start Program, approximately
30 \$14,400,000 was collected, including \$4,200,000 in general
31 excise tax and \$3,900,000 in income tax; and
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1 WHEREAS, a Tax Amnesty Day would benefit the State and
2 taxpayers by increasing tax compliance, reducing financial
3 burdens on individuals and businesses, and generating additional
4 revenue for essential government services; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2025, that the Department of Taxation is requested to
9 establish a Tax Amnesty Day to allow businesses and individuals
10 to pay unpaid taxes without penalties or fines; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Taxation is
13 requested to develop guidelines and procedures for implementing
14 the Tax Amnesty Day, including public outreach efforts to inform
15 taxpayers about the opportunity; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Taxation is
18 requested to submit a report, including the feasibility and the
19 potential impact of a proposed Tax Amnesty Day, to the
20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to Director of Taxation.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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