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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM; DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A GUARANTEED UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PROGRAM FOR WORKING FAMILIES IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii consistently ranks among the most expensive  
2 states in the nation, with high costs associated with housing,  
3 food, childcare, transportation, and other basic necessities;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, many working families in Hawaii continue to  
7 experience financial insecurity despite maintaining employment,  
8 as wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of living; and

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10           WHEREAS, many residents work multiple jobs or extended  
11 hours yet still struggle to afford basic necessities, reflecting  
12 the widening gap between wages and the cost of living in Hawaii;  
13 and

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15           WHEREAS, in 2017, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent  
16 Resolution No. 89, which established the Basic Economic Security  
17 Working Group (Working Group) to examine policies that could  
18 provide greater economic security for residents, including  
19 universal basic income concepts; and

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21           WHEREAS, the Working Group was tasked with studying the  
22 potential impacts of automation on jobs, reviewing the State's  
23 social safety net, and evaluating strategies that could  
24 strengthen economic security for Hawaii residents; and

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26           WHEREAS, although the Working Group helped elevate  
27 discussion of universal basic income and economic security  
28 policies, this did not result in the implementation of a



1 statewide pilot program or a comprehensive feasibility study;  
2 and  
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4 WHEREAS, since that time, guaranteed income pilot programs  
5 implemented in several cities across the United States have  
6 demonstrated potential benefits, including improved financial  
7 stability, reduced stress, and increased ability for families to  
8 meet essential needs; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique economic conditions, including its  
11 high cost of living and geographic isolation, make it important  
12 to continue exploring innovative solutions that support economic  
13 security for working families; now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
17 of 2026, that the Legislative Reference Bureau, in consultation  
18 with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
19 Tourism; Department of Human Services; and University of Hawaii  
20 Economic Research Organization, is requested to conduct a  
21 feasibility study on establishing a guaranteed universal basic  
22 income program for working families in Hawaii; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
25 Bureau is requested to include the following in the feasibility  
26 study:  
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- 28 (1) Potential program structures and eligibility criteria  
29 for working families;  
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- 31 (2) Estimated program costs and possible funding sources;  
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- 33 (3) Potential impacts on poverty reduction, economic  
34 stability, and workforce participation;  
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- 36 (4) Lessons learned from guaranteed income pilot programs  
37 implemented in other states and municipalities; and  
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- 39 (5) The feasibility of implementing a pilot program in  
40 Hawaii to evaluate the effectiveness of guaranteed  
41 income; and  
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# H.R. NO. 174

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
2 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 the Regular Session of 2027; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative  
9 Reference Bureau; Director of Business, Economic Development,  
10 and Tourism; Director of Human Services; and Executive Director  
11 of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 16 2026

