

JAN 25 2006

S.C.R. NO. 8

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO USE THE STATE'S SURPLUS TO MEET THE
CRITICAL SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, LONG-TERM CARE,
TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER NEEDS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR
STATE, RATHER THAN ISSUING A TAX REFUND.

1 WHEREAS, due to an increase in state revenues, it is
2 projected that there will be a surplus of several hundred
3 million dollars; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Governor is considering using the surplus to
6 provide a tax refund to its citizens; and

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8 WHEREAS, the media has often highlighted the problems and
9 unmet needs of Hawaii's public education system that could be
10 met in part by using the State's surplus; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii claims to be the "Health State" and enjoys
13 the highest percentage of individuals with medical coverage
14 across the nation, yet too many children, part-time workers, and
15 disabled persons receive no medical coverage and must either
16 survive without these essential human services or rely on state-
17 funded emergency services; and

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19 WHEREAS, with the anticipated wave of baby boomers entering
20 their retirement years in the very near future, it is necessary
21 for the State to play a leadership role and plan for this
22 tremendous impact on Hawaii's healthcare system; and

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24 WHEREAS, with the aging of Hawaii's population and
25 increased life expectancy, it is also necessary to develop a
26 State plan that addresses the long-term care needs of all its
27 citizens, not just those who can afford the inordinately
28 expensive long-term care plan policies; and

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30 WHEREAS, the rising cost of affordable housing is causing
31 extreme hardship for Hawaii's citizens, especially seniors and



1 individuals with low incomes, resulting in increasing numbers of
2 homelessness; and

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4 WHEREAS, transportation costs are increasing and access to
5 reasonably priced public transportation is getting more
6 difficult; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Silver Legislature, consisting of senior
9 citizens who helped to build our state and country with their
10 work ethic and sacrifices, many of whom live mostly on fixed
11 incomes, also recognizes the State's critical social,
12 educational, health, long-term care, transportation needs, and
13 are willing to forego any refund in state taxes to meet these
14 needs in the best interest of our State; and

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16 WHEREAS, the State has a responsibility to respond to these
17 areas of unmet needs for all of its citizens; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is urged
22 to use the expected state budget surplus to meet Hawaii's
23 tremendous and critical needs in the following areas:

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25 (1) Lower and higher education;
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27 (2) Health services so all citizens--children, workers,
28 retirees, and persons with disabilities--may have
29 adequate medical coverage, including coverage for
30 mental health services;
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32 (3) Long-term care for all citizens and a program to
33 support family caregivers;
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35 (4) Reasonably priced housing for all citizens, including
36 persons who are homeless;
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38 (5) Reasonably priced transportation services for all; and
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40 (6) Promoting a good business climate without deducting
41 worker's pay, medical coverage, or the ability to save
42 for a home or further education; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Concurrent
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii
3 and the Silver Legislature.
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OFFERED BY: 

By Request

