
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
TO RECOMMEND A STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "UNDEREMPLOYMENT".

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Revised Statutes does not contain a
2 definition of "underemployment"; and
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4 WHEREAS, there are no county ordinances, administrative
5 rules, or legislative measures passed in the past few years
6 defining "underemployment"; and
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8 WHEREAS, despite extensive use of the term in economic
9 studies and government reports, including the Hawaii Workforce
10 Development Council's 2007 Report to the Governor and 2005
11 Report to the Governor on the Year Four Implementation of the
12 Workforce Investment Act (2005 Report) and the Department of
13 Labor and Industrial Relations' "Workforce Investment Act Asian
14 Pacific Islander Earmark Grant," the term remains vague and
15 broad; and
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17 WHEREAS, the term is used extensively by the Department of
18 Labor and Industrial Relations in workforce development programs
19 and issues; and
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21 WHEREAS, the 2005 Report, as well as previous reports over
22 the years, includes a definition of "underemployed" as "an
23 individual who is working part-time but desires full-time
24 employment, or an individual whose employment is not
25 commensurate with the individual's demonstrated level of
26 educational attainment"; and
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28 WHEREAS, having a definition for this term could also be
29 useful for purposes of calculating the amount of child support
30 payments due from a parent who may not be fully employed or
31 otherwise considered to be below full earning capacity; and
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1 WHEREAS, unofficial estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor
2 Statistics report over 24,000 underemployed individuals in the
3 State of Hawaii; and

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5 WHEREAS, a statutory definition of the term would be of
6 immense help to monitor Hawaii's true economic condition and
7 labor productivity, which would enable elected officials and
8 executive branch administrators to make more informed and
9 educated decisions affecting the livelihood of the people of
10 Hawaii; and

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12 WHEREAS, a search of other state laws indicates that the
13 following states have statutory definitions of underemployment:
14 California, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and
15 Pennsylvania, which could serve as possible models for Hawaii;
16 now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative
21 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study to recommend a
22 definition of "underemployment" in the various contexts as it is
23 used in state and county governments; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review of
26 other state and federal laws; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
29 Bureau is requested to consult for purposes of the study with
30 the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Hawaii
31 Workforce Development Council; Department of Business, Economic
32 Development, and Tourism; Hawaii Child Support Enforcement
33 Agency; appropriate county agencies; appropriate federal
34 agencies; the U.S. Census Bureau; major labor unions; and major
35 employer associations; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
38 Bureau is requested to report findings and recommendations,
39 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
40 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
41 2008; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director



1 of the Legislative Reference Bureau; the Director of Labor and
2 Industrial Relations; the Director of Business, Economic
3 Development, and Tourism; and members of Hawaii's Congressional
4 delegation.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 13 2007

