
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK TO
STUDY THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE WORK REQUIREMENTS OF THE
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, in 1937, the Aid to Families with Dependent
2 Children program was enacted as part of the Social Security Act
3 to keep mothers at home to care for their children; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1996, the Aid to Dependent Children program was
6 replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, however, the new program instituted two major
10 policy changes: recipients could receive benefits for only five
11 years and recipients were subject to work requirements; and
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13 WHEREAS, by 2006, number of individuals receiving public
14 assistance had decreased by sixty per cent to 4,400,000 across
15 the country; and
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17 WHEREAS, at the same time child abuse and neglect cases in
18 Hawaii have been reported to have increased forty per cent in
19 the three years from 2000 to 2003; and
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21 WHEREAS, when a recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy
22 Families program benefits leaves the family to satisfy the
23 program's work requirements, additional costs are incurred for
24 child care; and
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26 WHEREAS, program work requirements mean mothers are absent
27 from the family, leading to family life that is subject to
28 disruption and possible increases in demand for child welfare
29 services; and
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31 WHEREAS, work requirements may even discourage continued
32 participation in the program and force mothers to exit the



1 program early, before they are fully prepared to assume complete
2 economic responsibility for their families; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is unclear whether work requirements under the
5 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program generate a net
6 benefit over the resulting social and other costs; now,
7 therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the University of
12 Hawaii School of Social Work is requested to study the negative
13 effects of the work requirements of the Temporary Assistance to
14 Needy Families program; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School of Social Work is
17 requested to include in its study of work requirements under the
18 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:

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20 (1) An examination of any increases:

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22 (A) To the cost of:

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24 (i) Child welfare services for recipients as
25 well as for all clients of such services;

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27 (ii) Health care services for recipients as well
28 as for all clients of such services; and

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30 (iii) Other services;

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32 correlating with or caused by work requirements;

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34 (B) In homelessness among those subject to work
35 requirements; and

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37 (C) In the number of arrests or convictions,
38 including child abuse or neglect, in families
39 subject to work requirements;

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41 (2) An examination of the rate at which recipients
42 prematurely discontinue participation in the program;



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1 (3) A survey of program participants for their views and
 2 input into program design regarding work requirements,
 3 including any additional services deemed necessary;
 4 and

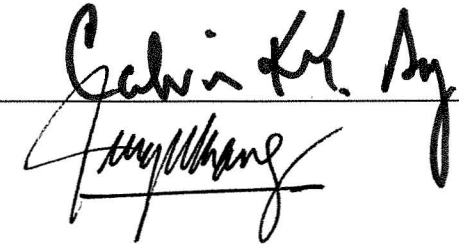
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 6 (4) Any other issues deemed relevant by the University of
 7 Hawaii School of Social Work study team; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services
 10 is requested to cooperate fully with and provide assistance,
 11 data, and other information to the University of Hawaii School
 12 of Social Work in its study; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii School
 15 of Social Work is requested to report to the Legislature its
 16 findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed
 17 legislation, not later than twenty days prior to the convening
 18 of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 22 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of
 23 the University of Hawaii, the Dean of the University of Hawaii
 24 School of Social Work, the Director of Human Services, and the
 25 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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OFFERED BY: 

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