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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1           WHEREAS, in 1937, the Aid to Dependent Children program was  
2 enacted as part of the Social Security Act to keep mothers at  
3 home to care for their children; and

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5           WHEREAS, in 1996, the Aid to Families with Dependent  
6 Children program was replaced by the Temporary Assistance for  
7 Needy Families (TANF) program; 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, the number of individuals receiving  
14 public assistance had decreased by 60 percent to 4,400,000  
15 across 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 40 percent in the  
19 three years from 2000 to 2003; and

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21           WHEREAS, when a recipient of TANF program benefits leaves  
22 the family to satisfy the program's work requirements,  
23 additional costs are incurred for child care; and

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25           WHEREAS, program work requirements mean mothers are absent  
26 from the family, leading to family life that is subject to  
27 disruption and possible increases in demand for child welfare  
28 services; and

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30           WHEREAS, work requirements may even discourage continued  
31 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 TANF program generate a net benefit over the resulting social  
6 and other costs; now, therefore,  
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
10 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the University of  
11 Hawaii (UH) School of Social Work is requested to study the  
12 effects of the work requirements of the TANF program; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH School of Social Work is  
15 requested to include in its study of work requirements under the  
16 TANF program:  
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18 (1) An examination of any increases:  
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20 (A) To the cost of:  
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22 (i) Child welfare services for recipients as  
23 well as for all clients of such services;  
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25 (ii) Health care services for recipients as well  
26 as for all clients of such services; and  
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28 (iii) Other services,  
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30 correlating with or caused by work requirements;  
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32 (B) In homelessness among those subject to work  
33 requirements; and  
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35 (C) In the number of arrests or convictions,  
36 including child abuse or neglect, in families  
37 subject to work requirements;  
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39 (2) An examination of the rate at which recipients  
40 prematurely discontinue participation in the program;  
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42 (3) A survey of program participants for their views and  
43 input into program design regarding work requirements,



1 including any additional services deemed necessary;  
2 and

3  
4 (4) Any other issues deemed relevant by the UH School of  
5 Social Work study team;

6  
7 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 UH School of Social Work in  
12 its study; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH School of Social Work is  
15 requested to provide an interim report to the Legislature on the  
16 progress of the study no later than 20 days prior to the  
17 convening of the Regular Session of 2009 and a final report of  
18 its findings and recommendations, including any necessary  
19 proposed legislation, no later than 20 days prior to the  
20 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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

