

---

---

## HOUSE 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  
4

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  
8

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  
12

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  
16

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  
20

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  
24

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  
29

30 WHEREAS, work requirements may even discourage continued  
31 participation in the program and force mothers to exit the  
32 program early, before they are fully prepared to assume complete  
33 economic responsibility for their families; and



1 WHEREAS, it is unclear whether work requirements under the  
2 TANF program generate a net benefit over the resulting social  
3 and other costs; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
7 Session of 2008, that the University of Hawaii (UH) School of  
8 Social Work is requested to study the effects of the work  
9 requirements of the TANF program; and  
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH School of Social Work is  
12 requested to include in its study of work requirements under the  
13 TANF program:  
14

- 15 (1) An examination of any increases:  
16  
17 (A) To the cost of:  
18  
19 (i) Child welfare services for recipients as  
20 well as for all clients of such services;  
21  
22 (ii) Health care services for recipients as well  
23 as for all clients of such services; and  
24  
25 (iii) Other services,  
26  
27 correlating with or caused by work requirements;  
28  
29 (B) In homelessness among those subject to work  
30 requirements; and  
31  
32 (C) In the number of arrests or convictions,  
33 including child abuse or neglect, in families  
34 subject to work requirements;  
35  
36 (2) An examination of the rate at which recipients  
37 prematurely discontinue participation in the program;  
38  
39 (3) A survey of program participants for their views and  
40 input into program design regarding work requirements,  
41 including any additional services deemed necessary;  
42 and



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

3  
4 and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
7 is requested to cooperate fully with and provide assistance,  
8 data, and other information to the UH School of Social Work in  
9 its study; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UH School of Social Work is  
12 requested to provide an interim report to the Legislature on the  
13 progress of the study no later than 20 days prior to the  
14 convening of the Regular Session of 2009 and a final report of  
15 its findings and recommendations, including any necessary  
16 proposed legislation, no later than 20 days prior to the  
17 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
21 Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of the  
22 University of Hawaii, the Dean of the University of Hawaii  
23 School of Social Work, the Director of Human Services, and the  
24 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

