
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE AND REQUESTING THE
GOVERNOR'S PARTICIPATION.

1 WHEREAS, in 1997, while virtually every other state except
2 Hawaii was enjoying one of the strongest economic expansions in
3 United States history, Hawaii had been mired in a seven-year
4 economic slump with job losses and inflation-adjusted falling
5 tax revenues; and
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7 WHEREAS, in response, on August 4, 1997, the Economic
8 Revitalization Task Force formed by then Governor Benjamin J.
9 Cayetano, Senate President Norman Mizuguchi, and House Speaker
10 Joseph M. Souki, held its inaugural meeting to examine and
11 consider major economic reforms by examining the State's tax
12 structure, government regulations, educational level of Hawaii's
13 work force, and the economic implications of controversial court
14 decisions; and
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16 WHEREAS, the mission of the Economic Revitalization Task
17 Force was to make recommendations to boost the State's economy;
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20 WHEREAS, the Task Force, consisting of twenty-one members
21 that included the heads of the State's leading industries and
22 labor unions, set up five work groups to concentrate on the
23 broad issues of:
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25 (1) Education and workforce training;

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27 (2) Business climate;

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29 (3) Role of government;
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1 (4) Economic development; and

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3 (5) Taxation; and

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5 WHEREAS, twenty to thirty individuals that included leaders
6 from various communities throughout the State served on each of
7 the five work groups; and

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9 WHEREAS, the work groups met at least once a week in
10 facilitated sessions, from August through September 1997, and
11 heard from various experts and received input from the public;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, over three days in October, 1997, the Task Force
15 considered recommendations made by the five work groups and met
16 to develop overall final recommendations; and

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18 WHEREAS, on October 22, 1997, the Task Force presented its
19 final recommendations to the Legislature and to the public and
20 began holding more than a dozen town meetings throughout the
21 State -- some broadcast via television and radio -- to generate
22 support for the recommendations; and

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24 WHEREAS, the United States is now undergoing a financial
25 and economic crisis rivaling, and perhaps exceeding, that of the
26 1930s, and both the developed and developing countries of the
27 world are experiencing in a global economic decline; and

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29 WHEREAS, the State's economy is currently entering a period
30 of economic decline that is more serious than the situation
31 experienced by Hawaii in the late 1990s and that could possibly
32 continue for quite an extended period; and

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34 WHEREAS, given the current situation in Hawaii, it is more
35 necessary than ever to take affirmative and broad-ranging steps
36 to address problems, both structural and non-structural, that
37 face the State; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby
42 convenes the Economic Recovery Task Force to address the
43 economic crisis facing the State; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
 2 Economic Recovery Task Force consist of twenty-one members,
 3 seven of whom are to be appointed by the President of the
 4 Senate, and seven of whom are to be appointed by the Speaker of
 5 the House of Representatives; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
 8 fully participate in the activities of the Economic Recovery
 9 Task Force and to appoint the remaining seven members to the
 10 Economic Recovery Task Force; and

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 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
 13 Economic Recovery Task Force organize and conduct itself in a
 14 similar manner as the 1997 Economic Revitalization Task Force,
 15 including the establishment of work groups to focus on specific
 16 issue areas, with the number of issue work groups and issue
 17 areas to be determined by the Economic Recovery Task Force; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is further
 20 requested to direct all relevant executive state agencies to
 21 participate substantively in the activities of the Economic
 22 Recovery Task Force and to provide administrative and technical
 23 support, as necessary; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Economic Recovery Task
 26 Force is requested to submit findings and recommendations,
 27 including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature
 28 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 29 Session of 2010; and

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 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 33 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the
 34 Senate, and to the heads of all state departments.

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OFFERED BY:

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