
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROVIDING
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT RANDOM DRUG TESTING OF
ADULT INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND
SUSPENDING THIS ASSISTANCE IF THE INDIVIDUAL TESTS POSITIVE
FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

1 WHEREAS, the recent economic crisis facing the nation has
2 resulted in increasing numbers of individuals seeking government
3 assistance; and

4
5 WHEREAS, government assistance programs are funded through
6 taxpayer dollars and state and local governments are currently
7 facing economic crises of their own often struggling to find
8 funding for even the most basic public services; and

9
10 WHEREAS, although the statistics are not staggering, a
11 recent report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
12 Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services
13 found that 9.6 percent of people living in households that
14 receive government assistance used illicit drugs in the previous
15 month; and

16
17 WHEREAS, since individuals receiving public assistance are
18 receiving this aid through the use of taxpayer dollars, it has
19 been suggested that requiring adult individuals receiving public
20 assistance to undergo random drug testing is the prudent thing
21 to do to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being appropriately
22 used for the provision of this assistance; and

23
24 WHEREAS, while legal questions have been raised regarding
25 random drug testing of individuals receiving government
26 assistance, this issue should be explored further to determine
27 its feasibility; now, therefore,



H.R. NO. 209

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2011, that the Department of Human Services is urged to
 4 explore the possibility of allowing government agencies
 5 providing government assistance to conduct random drug testing
 6 of adult individuals receiving public assistance and suspending
 7 this assistance if the individual tests positive for substance
 8 abuse; and

9
 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in exploring the possibility of
 11 conducting random drug testing, the Department of Human Services
 12 shall consider legal questions raised regarding this issue and
 13 whether random drug testing of individuals receiving public
 14 assistance would be feasible; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 17 services shall report its findings and recommendations,
 18 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 19 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 20 2012; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

Karen Aunana

John M. ...

Rida Cuonilla

Paul Chong

[Signature]