

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND  
STRONGLY OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

1           WHEREAS, the federal Community Services Block Grant program  
2 can be traced back to President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society"  
3 programs to eliminate poverty and racial injustice; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant program serves  
6 the nation's most vulnerable citizens and has a proven history  
7 of allowing low-income individuals to achieve economic security  
8 and participate more fully in society; and  
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10           WHEREAS, community action agencies have become a permanent  
11 institution in communities throughout the nation; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant program allows  
14 state and territory administrators to tailor anti-poverty  
15 efforts to address specific problems and capitalize on unique  
16 resources in their states; and  
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18           WHEREAS, over one thousand community-based organizations  
19 are networked throughout the United States, mobilizing local  
20 leaders and institutions to address issues specific to their  
21 communities; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant program is the  
24 only federal program exclusively focused on reducing poverty;  
25 and  
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27           WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant program has  
28 helped over twenty million individuals, over nine million  
29 households, nearly five million children, over two million  
30 elderly, nearly three million individuals with disabilities, and



1 almost four million individuals with no form of health  
2 insurance; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii has four community action agencies that  
5 employ over eight hundred individuals; and

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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii-based community action programs serve  
8 36,920 individuals, 25,946 families, 8,938 youths, and 15,839  
9 seniors; and

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11 WHEREAS, federal funding for Hawaii community action  
12 agencies helps to generate nearly \$47,000,000 in local funds,  
13 translating to \$10.92 in local funds for every Community  
14 Services Block Grant dollar invested in the State; and

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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii-based community action agencies exclusively  
17 serve families at or below the federal poverty level; and

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19 WHEREAS, the nation's current financial crisis will force  
20 more families to seek out services that community action  
21 agencies provide; and

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23 WHEREAS, recently, the President of the United States and  
24 members of the United States Congress have proposed cutting the  
25 budget of the Community Services Block Grant program by fifty  
26 per cent; and

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28 WHEREAS, the proposed cuts to the Community Services Block  
29 Grant program will severely impact the ability of community  
30 action agencies to properly serve the nation's vulnerable  
31 population at a time when services are needed most; now,  
32 therefore,

33  
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
36 that the Legislature supports the Community Services Block Grant  
37 program and the many positive impacts it has on Hawaii, and  
38 strongly opposes the budget cuts proposed by the President of  
39 the United States and members of the United States Congress; and

40  
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;  
43 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate; the Speaker of



1 the United States House of Representatives; and the members of  
2 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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