

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT 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



1 elderly, nearly three million individuals with disabilities, and
2 almost four million individuals with no form of health
3 insurance; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the



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1 United States; the Majority Leader of the United States Senate;
 2 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and
 3 the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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