
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, nearly five million
29 children, over two million elderly, nearly two million
30 individuals with disabilities, and almost four million
31 individuals with no form of health insurance; and
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33 WHEREAS, Hawaii has four community action agencies that
34 employ over eight hundred individuals; and



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 2 WHEREAS, Hawaii-based community action programs serve
 3 63,776 individuals in 38,817 low-income families, 8,338
 4 children, 11,007 individuals with disabilities, and 3,776
 5 individuals without health insurance; and

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

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

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

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 19 WHEREAS, recently, the President of the United States and
 20 members of the United States Congress have proposed cutting the
 21 budget of the Community Services Block Grant program by fifty
 22 percent; and

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 24 WHEREAS, the proposed cuts to the Community Services Block
 25 Grant program will severely impact the ability of community
 26 action agencies to properly serve the nation's most vulnerable
 27 populations at a time when services are severely needed; now,
 28 therefore,

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 30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
 31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
 32 that the Legislature support the Community Services Block Grant
 33 program and the many positive impacts it has on Hawaii, and
 34 strongly oppose the budget cuts proposed by the President of the
 35 United States and members of the United States Congress; and

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 37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;
 39 Majority Leader of the United States Senate; Speaker of the
 40 United States House of Representatives; and members of Hawaii's
 41 Congressional delegation.

