
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONVENE A BASIC ECONOMIC SECURITY WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, while the United States is the wealthiest nation
2 in the world, many families, individuals, and businesses in
3 Hawaii have been struggling to keep pace with the increasing
4 cost of living as economic inequality widens the gap between a
5 few top earners and the middle and lower class, the latter of
6 which has seen its overall share of income decline in recent
7 decades; and

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9 WHEREAS, efforts to increase wages, benefits, and working
10 conditions are important steps to assist local families in the
11 short-term, but a paradigm shift in policy will soon be
12 necessary as automation, innovation, and disruption begin to
13 rapidly worsen economic inequality by displacing significant
14 numbers of jobs in Hawaii's transportation, food service,
15 tourism, retail, medical, legal, insurance, and other sectors;
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, new companies have already begun to accelerate
19 disruption, such as Airbnb, which has become the largest hotel
20 company in the world despite not owning any hotels; and

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22 WHEREAS, self-driving autonomous vehicles are already
23 operating on streets in the United States and will displace
24 millions of taxi and delivery drivers; and

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26 WHEREAS, among human drivers, one accident occurs every
27 sixty thousand miles; and

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1 WHEREAS, in comparison, autonomous vehicles will likely see
2 only one accident every six million miles, a significant
3 difference that could disrupt the insurance industry; and
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5 WHEREAS, self-checkout lines at retail stores are already
6 rapidly expanding and replacing retail workers; and
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8 WHEREAS, International Business Machines Corporation's
9 Watson computer can provide basic legal advice faster and with
10 more accuracy than human attorneys and is helping to diagnose
11 cancer four times more accurately than human nurses; and
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13 WHEREAS, numerous companies are building applications that
14 turn smartphones into medical devices able to quickly analyze
15 blood samples, breath, and retinas to identify medical
16 conditions that will give millions of people access to instant,
17 low-cost tools for medical analysis; and
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19 WHEREAS, three-dimensional printers have dropped in price
20 from more than \$15,000 to less than \$500 in just ten years,
21 making it increasingly easy for people to purchase products
22 online and instantly print them at home; and
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24 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Hawaii jobs may be
25 replaced in the near future due to innovation, automation, and
26 disruption; and
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28 WHEREAS, to address rapidly growing income inequality and
29 ensure economic survival in a post-automation economy,
30 governments around the world are beginning to look at new
31 options; and
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33 WHEREAS, the governments of Finland, Uganda, and the
34 Canadian province of Ontario, along with private sector partners
35 in Oakland, California and non-profit partners in Kenya, have
36 begun pilot projects that explore providing different types of
37 universal basic income; and
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39 WHEREAS, the concept of universal basic income is analogous
40 to providing social security to every citizen at a level
41 sufficient to cover their basic needs; and
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1 WHEREAS, the availability of universal basic income would
2 allow individuals seeking job retraining or working part-time to
3 maintain a basic standard of living; and
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5 WHEREAS, universal basic income would also allow more
6 people to share part time work between the fewer number of jobs
7 that may be available, while lifting burdens on businesses, and
8 providing a more secure and substantial safety net for all
9 people, ending extreme financial poverty, and providing for a
10 more financially sustainable and equitable future for all
11 citizens in spite of coming economic disruption; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature declares
16 that all families in Hawaii deserve basic financial security and
17 that it is in the public interest to ensure economic
18 sustainability for our people; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature finds that
21 Hawaii's heavy reliance on a service-based economy makes it more
22 susceptible to economic disruption and job loss than other
23 states, and work must begin now to address the rapid automation,
24 innovation, and globalization that already is beginning to
25 displace significant numbers of local jobs, resulting in
26 worsening income inequality; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
29 Industrial Relations and the Department of Business, Economic
30 Development, and Tourism are requested to convene a basic
31 economic security working group to address the potential for
32 significant economic disruption and ensure the economic
33 sustainability of Hawaii's individuals and families in light of
34 future automation, innovation, and disruption; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
37 Industrial Relations and the Department of Business, Economic
38 Development, and Tourism are encouraged to include in the basic
39 economic security working group:
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- 1 (1) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with
- 2 primary jurisdiction over labor, as well as other
- 3 interested senators;
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- 5 (2) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
- 6 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
- 7 labor, as well as other interested representatives;
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- 9 (3) The Director of Human Services;
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- 11 (4) The Executive Director of the University of Hawaii
- 12 Economic Research Organization;
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- 14 (5) Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii,
- 15 and other representatives of the business community as
- 16 determined by the Director of Business, Economic
- 17 Development, and Tourism;
- 18
- 19 (6) Representatives of the labor industry as determined by
- 20 Hawaii State AFL-CIO; and
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- 22 (7) Other experts with relevant knowledge; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the basic economic security

25 working group shall be co-chaired by the Director of the Labor

26 and Industrial Relations and the Director of Business, Economic

27 Development, and Tourism, or each director's respective

28 designees; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the basic economic security

31 working group shall:

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- 33 (1) Assess Hawaii's job market exposure to automation
- 34 technologies, globalization, and disruptive
- 35 innovation;
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- 37 (2) Assess Hawaii's existing spending on social safety net
- 38 programs and other relevant expenditures, as well as
- 39 expected spending on those programs in light of
- 40 anticipated automation technologies, globalization,
- 41 disruptive innovation, and job losses;
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- 1 (3) Identify and analyze options to ensure economic
- 2 security, including a partial universal basic income,
- 3 full universal basic income, and other mechanisms;
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- 5 (4) Monitor studies, trials, and efforts in Hawaii and
- 6 other jurisdictions relevant to the basic economic
- 7 security working group; and
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- 9 (5) Seek out partnerships to publish or fund relevant
- 10 trials or studies to evaluate options; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 13 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 14 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 15 than twenty days prior to the convening of each Regular Session;
 16 and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
 20 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Director of
 21 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Director of
 22 Human Services; the Executive Director of the University of
 23 Hawaii Economic Research Organization; the President and Chief
 24 Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; and the
 25 President of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO.
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OFFERED BY:

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