

---

---

## HOUSE 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

8  
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

17  
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

21  
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

25  
26           WHEREAS, among human drivers, one accident occurs every  
27 sixty thousand miles; and

28  
29           WHEREAS, in comparison, autonomous vehicles will likely see  
30 only one accident every six million miles, a significant  
31 difference that could disrupt the insurance industry; and  
32



## H.R. NO. 51

1           WHEREAS, self-checkout lines at retail stores are already  
2 rapidly expanding and replacing retail workers; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, International Business Machines Corporation's  
5 Watson computer can provide basic legal advice faster and with  
6 more accuracy than human attorneys and is helping to diagnose  
7 cancer four times more accurately than human nurses; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, numerous companies are building applications that  
10 turn smartphones into medical devices able to quickly analyze  
11 blood samples, breath, and retinas to identify medical  
12 conditions that will give millions of people access to instant,  
13 low-cost tools for medical analysis; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, three-dimensional printers have dropped in price  
16 from more than \$15,000 to less than \$500 in just ten years,  
17 making it increasingly easy for people to purchase products  
18 online and instantly print them at home; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Hawaii jobs may be  
21 replaced in the near future due to innovation, automation, and  
22 disruption; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, to address rapidly growing income inequality and  
25 ensure economic survival in a post-automation economy,  
26 governments around the world are beginning to look at new  
27 options; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, the governments of Finland, Uganda, and the  
30 Canadian province of Ontario, along with private sector partners  
31 in Oakland, California and non-profit partners in Kenya, have  
32 begun pilot projects that explore providing different types of  
33 universal basic income; and  
34

35           WHEREAS, the concept of universal basic income is analogous  
36 to providing social security to every citizen at a level  
37 sufficient to cover their basic needs; and  
38

39           WHEREAS, the availability of universal basic income would  
40 allow individuals seeking job retraining or working part-time to  
41 maintain a basic standard of living; and  
42



# H.R. NO. 51

1           WHEREAS, universal basic income would also allow more  
2 people to share part time work between the fewer number of jobs  
3 that may be available, while lifting burdens on businesses, and  
4 providing a more secure and substantial safety net for all  
5 people, ending extreme financial poverty, and providing for a  
6 more financially sustainable and equitable future for all  
7 citizens in spite of coming economic disruption; now, therefore,  
8

9           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2017, that the Legislature declares that all families in  
12 Hawaii deserve basic financial security and that it is in the  
13 public interest to ensure economic sustainability for our  
14 people; and  
15

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature finds that  
17 Hawaii's heavy reliance on a service-based economy makes it more  
18 susceptible to economic disruption and job loss than other  
19 states, and work must begin now to address the rapid automation,  
20 innovation, and globalization that already is beginning to  
21 displace significant numbers of local jobs, resulting in  
22 worsening income inequality; and  
23

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and  
25 Industrial Relations and the Department of Business, Economic  
26 Development, and Tourism are requested to convene a basic  
27 economic security working group to address the potential for  
28 significant economic disruption and ensure the economic  
29 sustainability of Hawaii's individuals and families in light of  
30 future automation, innovation, and disruption; and  
31

32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and  
33 Industrial Relations and the Department of Business, Economic  
34 Development, and Tourism are encouraged to include in the basic  
35 economic security working group:  
36

- 37           (1) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with  
38           primary jurisdiction over labor, as well as other  
39           interested senators;  
40



# H.R. NO. 51

- 1           (2) The chairperson of the House of Representatives  
2           standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
3           labor, as well as other interested representatives;  
4
- 5           (3) The Director of Human Services;  
6
- 7           (4) The Executive Director of the University of Hawaii  
8           Economic Research Organization;  
9
- 10          (5) Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii,  
11          and other representatives of the business community as  
12          determined by the Director of Business, Economic  
13          Development, and Tourism;  
14
- 15          (6) Representatives of the labor industry as determined by  
16          Hawaii State AFL-CIO; and  
17
- 18          (7) Other experts with relevant knowledge; and  
19

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the basic economic security  
21 working group shall be co-chaired by the Director of the Labor  
22 and Industrial Relations and the Director of Business, Economic  
23 Development, and Tourism, or each director's respective  
24 designees; and  
25

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the basic economic security  
27 working group shall:  
28

- 29          (1) Assess Hawaii's job market exposure to automation  
30          technologies, globalization, and disruptive  
31          innovation;  
32
- 33          (2) Assess Hawaii's existing spending on social safety net  
34          programs and other relevant expenditures, as well as  
35          expected spending on those programs in light of  
36          anticipated automation technologies, globalization,  
37          disruptive innovation, and job losses;  
38
- 39          (3) Identify and analyze options to ensure economic  
40          security, including a partial universal basic income,  
41          full universal basic income, and other mechanisms;  
42



# H.R. NO. 51

1 (4) Monitor studies, trials, and efforts in Hawaii and  
 2 other jurisdictions relevant to the basic economic  
 3 security working group; and  
 4

5 (5) Seek out partnerships to publish or fund relevant  
 6 trials or studies to evaluate options; and  
 7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 9 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 10 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
 11 than twenty days prior to the convening of each Regular Session;  
 12 and  
 13

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

OFFERED BY:

Sen Wilson

De Loh

[Signature]

[Signature]

Mrs. E. Lowen

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

De Hlt

