
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING A LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE AND
IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE GREATER RETIREMENT SAVINGS
FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, there is a looming retirement security crisis in
2 this State, as many individuals do not have access to an
3 employer-sponsored retirement plan; and
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5 WHEREAS, individuals without a retirement plan are at
6 significant risk of not having enough retirement income to meet
7 basic expenses during retirement; and
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9 WHEREAS, retirement savings plans help employees achieve
10 economic security, improve economic mobility, and reduce wealth
11 disparity; and
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13 WHEREAS, individuals need a lifelong savings system that
14 provides them with the opportunity to build their assets and
15 attain future financial stability; and
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17 WHEREAS, providing private sector employees with access to
18 employer-sponsored retirement plans provides a reliable way to
19 accumulate savings needed for a secure retirement; and
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21 WHEREAS, approximately fifty percent of Hawaii's private
22 sector employees work for an employer that does not offer a
23 retirement plan or are not eligible for the plan offered; and
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25 WHEREAS, the lack of opportunity to participate in an
26 employer-provided retirement plan spans all levels of education
27 and earnings; and
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29 WHEREAS, employees of Hawaii businesses with fewer than one
30 hundred employees are much less likely to have access to a
31 retirement plan than employees of larger businesses; and



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2 WHEREAS, employees who are offered the opportunity to save
3 through the employee's place of employment are significantly
4 more likely to participate and make steady contributions to
5 build retirement savings; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the legislative
10 retirement savings working group is convened to investigate and
11 identify strategies to promote greater retirement savings for
12 private sector employees; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed
15 of the following:
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- 17 (1) One Senator, to be co-chair of the working group, to
18 be appointed by the President of the Senate;
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- 20 (2) One Representative, to be co-chair of the working
21 group, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives;
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- 24 (3) The Director of Finance, or the Director's designee;
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- 26 (4) A representative of the Employees' Retirement System;
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- 28 (5) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
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- 30 (6) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the
31 Director's designee;
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- 33 (7) One representative of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii;
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- 35 (8) Three community members representing various senior
36 citizen interests, to be jointly selected by the
37 Senate President and the Speaker of the House of
38 Representatives, as follows: one member representing
39 a senior advocacy group, one member representing a
40 social services group, and one member representing a
41 community organization, such as AARP Hawaii;
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1 (9) Four members with experience in financial counseling
2 for seniors, to be jointly selected by the Senate
3 President and the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, as follows: one member representing
5 a company offering retirement savings or a financial
6 services company, one member representing a bank or
7 savings and loan company, one member representing a
8 financial trade group, such as the Hawaii Bankers
9 Association, and one member representing a third-party
10 administrator;

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12 (10) One member from each of the following four public
13 interest groups: Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and
14 Economic Justice, Assistive Technology Resource
15 Centers of Hawaii, Hawaii Employers Council, and
16 Altres; and

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18 (11) A member representing the small business industry to
19 be jointly selected by the Senate President and the
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
23 to:

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25 (1) Make recommendations on the feasibility, strategies,
26 and impact of establishing a retirement savings
27 program to promote greater retirement savings for
28 private sector employees;

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30 (2) Determine the financial impact to the State's social
31 safety net programs and the general fund if the State
32 fails to act to improve workers' access to retirement
33 savings opportunities;

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35 (3) Consult with the private and nonprofit sectors
36 concerning the establishment and operation of high-
37 quality and low-cost retirement savings plans that are
38 governed by federal law and that qualify for tax-
39 favored treatment under the Internal Revenue Code, and
40 the efficacy of these plans;

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- 1 (4) Perform an analysis to determine whether and how to
2 best establish a statewide retirement savings option
3 that will connect business owners/employers and their
4 private sector employees, including part-time workers
5 and the self-employed, to retirement savings
6 opportunities that:
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8 (A) Are broadly available;
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10 (B) Use automatic enrollment and automatic
11 escalation;
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13 (C) Are low cost to employees, employers, and the
14 State; and
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16 (D) Offer lifetime income options;
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18 (5) Examine other retirement savings programs and
19 incentives that include but are not limited to state-
20 sponsored retirement savings programs in California,
21 Oregon, and Maryland and private marketplace plans in
22 Washington, Utah, and New Jersey;
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24 (6) Provide information regarding the status of the
25 current educational efforts in Hawaii concerning
26 saving, investment, planning for retirement, financial
27 planning, and the dissemination of such information,
28 especially to younger people, as well as an analysis
29 of the efficacy of these efforts; and
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31 (7) Determine the best role for the State in helping
32 Hawaii workers save for their future; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
35 to submit a draft report of its findings and recommendations,
36 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference
37 Bureau no later than October 1, 2017; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group, with the
40 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
41 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller,
6 Director of Finance, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
7 Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System, Director
8 of the Legislative Reference Bureau, President and Chief
9 Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawaii
10 Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Assistive
11 Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii, Hawaii Employers Council,
12 and Altres.

