

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON POPULATION DECLINE IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the Census Bureau estimates that Hawaii's
2 population only grew by 0.2 percent from 2015 to 2016 and from
3 July 1, 2017, to July 1, 2018, the population in Hawaii declined
4 by approximately three thousand seven hundred people; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State's net reproductive rate and net
7 international migration rate are positive, implying that the
8 reason for the slowdown and decline in the State's population is
9 due to emigration from Hawaii to the United States mainland; and
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11 WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2018, approximately fifty-five
12 thousand more people left Hawaii than moved in from the
13 mainland; and
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15 WHEREAS, the emigration from Hawaii to the United States
16 mainland has accelerated rapidly, from a net outmigration of
17 1,443 between 2012 to 2013 to 12,430 between 2017 to 2018,
18 resulting in Hawaii being one of only nine other states whose
19 populations declined over the last year; and
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21 WHEREAS, there are a variety of reasons for the increase in
22 people leaving Hawaii for the mainland, including the high cost
23 of living in the State and job opportunities on the mainland;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, the declining population could have large negative
27 effects on the economy, including a smaller and less productive
28 workforce and a diminishing tax base; and
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30 WHEREAS, brain drain, which is the emigration of highly
31 skilled or well-educated individuals, could lead to a negative
32 feedback loop between population decline and economic slowdown,



1 as limited economic opportunities encourage high skilled and
2 well-educated individuals to leave the State, weakening the
3 State's economy, thereby further encouraging brain drain and
4 exacerbating the decline in the population; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State already suffers from a shortage of
7 teachers, doctors, nurses, and STEM professionals; now,
8 therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
12 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Business,
13 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to conduct a
14 study on population decline in Hawaii and the potential
15 consequences to the State; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include:

- 18 (1) Projections of the potential negative effects to the
19 State's economy if the population continues to
20 decline;
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22 (2) An analysis of the underlying reasons for the
23 emigration of Hawaii residents; and
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25 (3) Recommendations for actions to address the causes of
26 population decline; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
30 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
31 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
32 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
33 Session of 2020; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
37 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY: Breene Hunt
Kevin O'Rourke Terrence J. [unclear] Mike Gabbard

S.C.R. NO. 51

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