
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A STATE DEMOGRAPHER.

1 WHEREAS, states including Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada,
2 North Carolina, and Texas have a state demographer who provides
3 the public and state legislature with reports on state
4 demographics, or an analysis of human population
5 characteristics, and related socioeconomic data that may be
6 useful to public policymakers; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii has no state demographer and relies upon
9 statistics and data from the United States Census Bureau and
10 various agencies and nonprofit organizations to support
11 legislation and funding requests; and
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13 WHEREAS, unless the Legislature requests an audit by the
14 State Auditor, a study by the Legislative Reference Bureau, or a
15 state-funded report by a third party, reports provided to the
16 Legislature by various agencies and nonprofit organizations to
17 justify their funding requests may be biased; and
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19 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban
20 Development (HUD) recently funded two databases used by Homeless
21 Continuum of Care providers to input data on the clients they
22 serve, where previously there was only one database; and
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24 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
25 Agriculture and Human Resources, which drafted the most recent
26 homeless report and provided data on the efficacy of various
27 homeless programs by county, race, gender, veteran status, age,
28 families, and length of residence, has declined to prepare
29 another report because it would need to review two databases;
30 and



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1 WHEREAS, in addition to creating reports using both HUD-
 2 funded databases, a state demographer could provide periodic
 3 reports on kupuna care and kupuna caregiver program demographics
 4 to evaluate their efficacy and how equitably benefits are being
 5 distributed; and

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 7 WHEREAS, the Legislature could also benefit by having a
 8 state demographer capable of generating demographic reports on
 9 other multimillion-dollar programs funded by the State prior to
 10 the start of each regular session; now, therefore,

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 12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 14 2020, the Senate concurring, that this body requests the
 15 Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study to determine the
 16 need for a state demographer; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 19 Bureau is requested to consider the pros and cons of creating an
 20 Office of the State Demographer and whether the State Auditor;
 21 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
 22 University of Hawaii; or other agency or department has the
 23 existing capacity to generate these types of demographic
 24 reports; and

25
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 27 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
 28 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 29 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 30 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
 34 Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY:

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H.C.R. NO. 140

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