
HOUSE 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
7

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
12

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
18

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
23

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
31

32 WHEREAS, in addition to creating reports using both HUD-
33 funded databases, a state demographer could provide periodic



H.R. NO. 123

1 reports on kupuna care and kupuna caregiver program demographics
 2 to evaluate their efficacy and how equitably benefits are being
 3 distributed; and
 4

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

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

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
 32 Reference Bureau.
 33
 34
 35

OFFERED BY:

Indeeching
Lida Caton / Prafawa
Blakeslee

[Signature]
Amy Penn
[Signature]



H.R. NO. 123

DM

Mark Edmund

Jay DeLoe

Byron

W. J.

Michael Taylor

C. D.

Byron A.

Dan Barnes

Tim Winger

Chad

Chad

MAR 06 2020

