
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE SELECT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS.

1 WHEREAS, a virus named "SARS-CoV-2" causes a disease named
2 the "2019 novel coronavirus", or COVID-19, which since January
3 2020, has been at the center of an outbreak of respiratory
4 disease first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China; and
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6 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health
7 Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization
8 declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of
9 international concern" and recently raised its prediction of the
10 global spread of the virus to "very high"; and
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12 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department
13 of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health
14 emergency for the United States to aid the nation's health care
15 community in responding to COVID-19; and
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17 WHEREAS, COVID-19 may deeply impact Hawaii's economy due to
18 the State's proximity to Asia and reliance on the tourism
19 industry and imported goods; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
22 and Tourism reported a 7.3 percent drop in international
23 passengers to the State in February 2020, and also estimated a
24 loss of over \$23 million in visitor expenditures; and
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26 WHEREAS, due to the heavy reliance on tourism and imported
27 goods, the State must prepare for the economic and financial
28 impact on Hawaii's residents, businesses, and governmental
29 operations; and
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31 WHEREAS, during the Great Recession of 2008, the State was
32 faced with a \$2.1 billion shortfall; and



1 WHEREAS, to account for the loss from the Great Recession
2 of 2008, state government had to implement several difficult
3 decisions including:

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- 5 (1) Reducing the school week to four days through furlough
 - 6 Fridays;
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 - 8 (2) Cutting millions of dollars for critical mental
 - 9 health, adult dental, social service, housing,
 - 10 homeless, and environmental programs; and
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 - 12 (3) Reducing public employees' salaries by five percent;
 - 13 and
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15 WHEREAS, ensuring the health and safety of people of the
16 State is imperative, but the State must also work to secure
17 Hawaii's economy and financial viability going forward; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State must be prepared to take immediate
20 action in the event that a statewide COVID-19 outbreak occurs to
21 ensure that Hawaii is prepared and able to handle the effects of
22 an epidemic in our State; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
26 2020, that there is established the Select House Committee on
27 COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness, to work with
28 representatives from local and state government, private
29 industry, and nonprofit agencies and organizations, to inform
30 the House of Representatives on the State's economic and
31 financial preparedness in the event that a COVID-19 outbreak
32 occurs in the State; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Select Committee shall
35 examine economic and financial issues including:

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- 37 (1) Identifying the potential economic and financial
 - 38 impact to the State;
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 - 40 (2) Developing short-term and long-term mitigation plans;
 - 41 and



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(3) Monitoring COVID-19 conditions and outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint the chair and members of the Select Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Select Committee meet and report on a regular basis to the House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY: Ben R. Ray

MAR - 2 2020

