

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE STATE ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A PAID FAMILY
LEAVE PROGRAM FOR ALL WORKERS BY 2025.

1 WHEREAS, forty-two percent of employees in the State's
2 private sector lack access to a single day of paid leave while
3 those most in need of financial support from paid leave, low
4 wage workers, are least likely to have access to family leave;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest costs of living, the
8 highest percentage of multi-generational households, and fastest
9 growing population of individuals aged sixty-five and older in
10 the United States; and

11
12 WHEREAS, almost every worker in Hawaii will face the
13 demands of caring for a newborn, sick children, and a spouse or
14 loved one who has developed a serious health condition at some
15 point in their life; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the United States is the only highly developed
18 nation that does not mandate any paid family leave for all
19 workers, and the average paid leave mandated by these other
20 nations is eighteen weeks; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993
23 allows twelve weeks of unpaid leave to employees, but only those
24 who have worked at a business that employs fifty or more
25 employees; and

26
27 WHEREAS, existing state law offers a modest four-week
28 extension of unpaid leave that is available only to employees of
29 large employers having more than one hundred employees, which
30 fails to cover forty percent of the State's workforce; and

31
32 WHEREAS, a lack of access to paid family leave has profound
33 consequences for our working families; financially vulnerable



1 parents and caregivers are forced to choose between their
2 livelihood or the well-being of a loved one; and

3
4 WHEREAS, two-thirds of children live in households where
5 both parents work, and a quarter live in households headed by a
6 single parent, leaving no full-time caregiver at home; and

7
8 WHEREAS, a 2015 AARP Public Policy Institute study found
9 that 154,000 adults in Hawaii have provided unpaid care to an
10 adult loved one with caregiving hours estimated at 144 million,
11 which translates to \$2,100,0000 in costs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, women, as primary caregivers of infants, children,
14 and elderly parents, are affected disproportionately by the lack
15 of paid family leave; and

16
17 WHEREAS, analysis of a report provided in 2018 by the
18 National Women's Law Center estimated that the motherhood wage
19 gap or "motherhood penalty" equates to a loss of \$16,000 a year;
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS, paid family leave often results in benefits for
23 employers, employees, families and the economy, such as:

- 24
25 (1) Increased health outcomes for children and mothers;
26
27 (2) Increased bonding between parents and children;
28
29 (3) Increased elderly individuals being able to age in
30 place with family caregiver support;
31
32 (4) Increased employee retention;
33
34 (5) Increased employee productivity and engagement;
35
36 (6) Increased physical wellness;
37
38 (7) Increased gender equity in the workplace; and
39
40 (8) Decreased dependence on public assistance; and
41



S.C.R. NO. 221

1 WHEREAS, eight states and the District of Columbia have
2 adopted a state-level paid family leave program that operates
3 under a social insurance system, with employees and/or employers
4 across the state paying into a dedicated insurance fund; and
5 several other states and municipalities are considering adopting
6 a paid family leave program; and
7

8 WHEREAS, a comprehensive feasibility and implementation
9 study, the "Paid Family Leave Grant Analysis Report", was
10 published in November 2017; and within six months the
11 Legislature directed the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct
12 a sunrise analysis to lay the ground work for the establishment
13 of a Hawaii paid family leave framework that would enable
14 employees to access leave benefits to care for family members;
15 and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau published the
18 "Paid Family Leave Program Impact Study" on November 13, 2019;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, both studies concluded that although states have
22 enacted laws to expand unpaid and job-protection leave, it is
23 not a realistic option in the event of a new biological, foster
24 or adopted child, aging parent, or ailing loved one, and that
25 sustainably-funded paid family leave is needed and affordable;
26 now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
30 Representatives concurring, that the State is respectfully
31 requested to establish and recognize a goal to adopt and
32 implement a paid family leave program for all workers by 2025;
33 and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
37 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director
38



S.C.R. NO. 221

1 of the Department of Human Services, and Director of the
2 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.
3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

[Signature]

[Signature]

Rossly H Baker

[Signature]

[Signature]

Francis Snowy

[Signature]
Kal Hood

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Clarence K. Fishburn

Kurt Feller
[Signature]

