
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONTINUE TO CEASE
INTERCEPTING SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human
2 Services Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
3 recorded 1,418 children in foster care in Hawaii on
4 September 30, 2021; and

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6 WHEREAS, approximately ten percent of foster youth in the
7 United States are entitled to Social Security benefits, either
8 because their parents have died or because they have a physical
9 or mental disability; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii is among forty-nine states that currently
12 intercept Social Security payments for children in foster care
13 without the foster child's knowledge; and

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15 WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2022, the Hawaii Department of
16 Human Services collected \$1,500,000 on behalf of thirty-seven
17 children in foster care; and

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19 WHEREAS, intercepted Social Security payments are used by
20 the Department of Human Services to pay for the foster child's
21 care; and

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23 WHEREAS, intercepting Social Security payment meant for
24 foster children limits their financial well-being as they pursue
25 higher education or achieve-financial independence; and

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27 WHEREAS, child welfare officials in New York City recently
28 decided to end the practice of intercepting foster children's
29 Social Security payments and plan to deposit the payments into
30 savings accounts, which a foster child may access when the child



1 is returned to their family, is adopted, or ages out of foster
2 care; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
7 Human Services is requested to continue to cease intercepting
8 Social Security payments for children in foster care; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
11 Services is requested to deposit Social Security payments for
12 foster children into savings accounts that may be accessed by
13 foster children when they return to their families, are adopted,
14 or age out of foster care; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
18 Director of Human Services.

