
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A NATIVE HAWAIIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians experience high levels of poverty
2 relative to other racial groups in the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, according to a recent report by Aloha United Way,
5 fifty-seven percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
6 households fall below the Asset Limited, Income Constrained,
7 Employed (ALICE) threshold; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to a report published by Hawai'i
10 Appleseed, Native Hawaiians are amongst the lowest-earning
11 ethnic groups in the State, with an average individual income of
12 around \$30,000 as of 2022; and

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14 WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians have been forced to leave
15 Hawaii to pursue better economic conditions and job
16 opportunities, with more Native Hawaiians now living on the
17 continent than in Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, there is a need for the State to consider economic
20 development strategies that help improve financial conditions
21 and economic opportunities for Native Hawaiians; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Business,
26 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to establish a
27 Native Hawaiian Economic Development Working Group; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
30 to:



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(1) Identify economic development initiatives that directly benefit Native Hawaiians; and

(2) Consider gaming as one pathway to spur economic opportunity for Native Hawaiians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are requested to serve as members of the working group:

(1) The Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives with primary jurisdiction over economic development, or the Chairs' designees, who shall serve as co-chairpersons of the working group;

(2) The President of the Senate, or the President's designee;

(3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the Speaker's designee;

(4) A representative from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;

(5) A representative from the Department of Law Enforcement;

(6) A representative from the Department of Taxation;

(7) One individual having knowledge, experience, and expertise in the area of labor, to be invited by the co-chairpersons of the working group;

(8) One individual representing Native Hawaiian culture, to be invited by the co-chairpersons of the working group;

(9) One individual having experience in social services and behavioral addictions, to be invited by the co-chairpersons of the working group;



1 (10) One individual possessing academic and research
2 expertise in global tourism, sports, and entertainment
3 industries, to be invited by the co-chairpersons of
4 the working group; and
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6 (11) Other interested parties having relevant experience
7 and expertise, as invited by the co-chairpersons of
8 the working group; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
11 to submit to the Legislature a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
14 of 2027; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
17 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to provide
18 necessary administrative support to the working group in
19 carrying out its duties, including the preparation of the report
20 to the Legislature; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
23 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to dissolve the
24 Native Hawaiian Economic Development Working Group on June 30,
25 2028; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
29 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Law
30 Enforcement; and Director of Taxation.

