

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO GIVE PRIORITY TO CHILDREN IN POVERTY.

1 WHEREAS, growing up in an impoverished environment leaves
2 keiki vulnerable to negative life experiences such as dropping
3 out of school, illegal substance abuse, early parenthood,
4 juvenile or adult delinquency, and the like; and
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6 WHEREAS, the number of students qualifying for free or
7 reduced cost school meals is a reliable indicator of poverty in
8 our state, and as of October 2012, there were 180,482 students
9 enrolled under the Hawaii Child Nutrition Program with 74,176
10 receiving free lunches/breakfasts; 19,816 receiving reduced cost
11 lunches/breakfast; and 86,490 paying full price; and
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13 WHEREAS, to qualify for the Hawaii Child Nutrition Program
14 the U.S. Department of Education eligibility guidelines for
15 possible recipients are 130 percent of the Hawaii federal
16 poverty limit for free meals and 185 percent for reduced meals;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, for a family of four the eligibility guidelines in
20 dollars is \$35,217 for free meals and \$50,117 for reduced-price
21 meals; and
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23 WHEREAS, the above example is but one of a variety of
24 examples illustrating the struggles of Hawaii's keiki in today's
25 society; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon state leaders and government
28 officials to focus their collective energy on helping children
29 and their families rise above poverty; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Second
33 Special Session of 2013, that this body urges the Governor of



1 the State of Hawaii to give priority to initiatives focused on
2 improving the lives of children in poverty by dedicating more
3 State resources toward improving the economic well-being,
4 educational opportunities, health support, and family and
5 community initiatives available to Hawaii's keiki and their
6 families; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Chairperson of
10 the Senate Committee on Human Services; and the Chairperson of
11 the House Committee on Human Services.
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OFFERED BY:

Rachel Fale

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