
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ADDRESS RAPIDLY GROWING INCOME
INEQUALITY IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the financial health of the average family in
2 Hawaii is at risk, as growth in income shifts disproportionately
3 to the wealthy at greater rates than ever before; and
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5 WHEREAS, we as a society have been called upon to address
6 growing income inequality by leaders across the world, from Pope
7 Francis I to President Obama, to solve what the President has
8 termed, "the defining issue of our time;" and
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10 WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) finds that,
11 between 1979 and 2007 in the United States, income grew by 275
12 percent for the top one percent of households, but just 18
13 percent for the bottom 20 percent; and
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15 WHEREAS, according to the CBO, between 1979 and 2007, the
16 top fifth of the population saw a 10-percentage-point increase
17 in its share of after-tax income, with most of that growth going
18 to the top one percent of the population, while all other groups
19 saw a decline in their shares by two to three percentage points;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, in 2011, the Economic Research Organization at the
23 University of Hawaii stated that inequality is growing rapidly
24 in Hawaii, finding that:
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- 26 (1) The top one percent of Hawaii households increased
27 their share of total income from seven percent in 1975
28 to 20 percent in 2005;
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- 30 (2) The top 10 percent of Hawaii households increased
31 their share of total income from approximately 30-32
32 percent from 1946-1982 to 43 percent in 2005; and
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- 34 (3) Income inequality had been stable until the early
1980s, when globalization and the decline of union



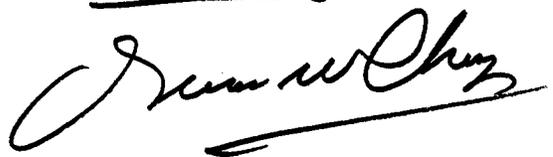
1 agricultural jobs negatively impacted middle and low-
2 wage earners; now, therefore,
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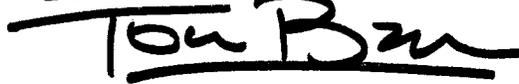
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2014, that the Department of Business, Economic
7 Development, and Tourism is requested to convene a task force
8 composed of at least two economists; two citizen advocates; the
9 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the
10 Director's designee; the Director of Finance, or the Director's
11 designee; the Director of Taxation, or the Director's designee;
12 two members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and two
13 members appointed by the Senate President to address income
14 inequality among Hawaii's citizens; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
17 assess income inequality in Hawaii and make recommendations to
18 address its impact on Hawaii's families; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Business,
21 Economic Development, and Tourism submit a report of the task
22 force's findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation
23 to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of
24 the Regular Session of 2015; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Director of
28 Business, Economic Development and Tourism; the Director of
29 Finance; and the Director of Taxation.
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