
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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
21

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;

29
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



1 (3) Income inequality had been stable until the early
2 1980s, when globalization and the decline of union
3 agricultural jobs negatively impacted middle and low-
4 wage earners; now, therefore,
5

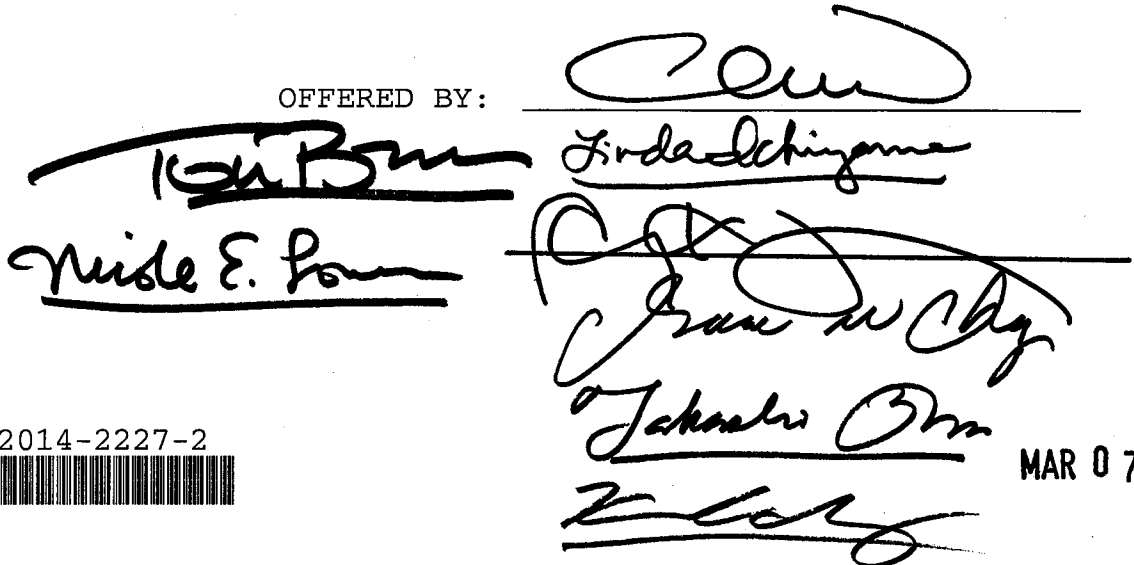
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
9 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
10 convene a task force composed of at least two economists; two
11 citizen advocates; the Director of Business, Economic
12 Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee; the
13 Director of Finance, or the Director's designee; the Director of
14 Taxation, or the Director's designee; two members appointed by
15 the Speaker of the House; and two members appointed by the
16 Senate President to address income inequality among Hawaii's
17 citizens; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
20 assess income inequality in Hawaii and make recommendations to
21 address its impact on Hawaii's families; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Business,
24 Economic Development, and Tourism submit a report of the task
25 force's findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation
26 to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of
27 the Regular Session of 2015; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
31 Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; the
32 Director of Finance; and the Director of Taxation.
33
34
35

OFFERED BY:


The text shows several handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left, there are three signatures: the top one is partially obscured, the middle one appears to be 'Kaua' with a flourish, and the bottom one is 'Mildred E. Poon'. On the right, there are four signatures: the top one is a large, stylized signature, the second is 'Tindalchizuma', the third is 'Frank W. Chy', and the bottom one is 'Johanna Brn'. There are also some illegible signatures below these.

