

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON POPULATION DECLINE IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the Census Bureau estimates that Hawaii's
2 population only grew by 0.2 percent from 2015 to 2016 and from
3 July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2017, the population in Hawaii declined
4 by approximately one thousand people; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the State's net reproductive rate and net
7 international migration rate are positive, implying that the
8 reason for the slowdown and decline in the State's population is
9 due to emigration from Hawaii to the United States mainland; and
10

11 WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2017, approximately forty-five
12 thousand more people left Hawaii than moved in from the
13 mainland; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the emigration from Hawaii to the United States
16 mainland has accelerated rapidly, from a net outmigration of
17 1,443 between 2012 to 2013 to 13,537 between 2016 to 2017,
18 resulting in Hawaii being one of only eight other states whose
19 populations declined over the last year; and
20

21 WHEREAS, there are a variety of reasons for the increase in
22 people leaving Hawaii for the mainland, including the high cost
23 of living in the State and job opportunities on the mainland;
24 and
25

26 WHEREAS, the declining population could have large negative
27 effects on the economy, including a smaller and less productive
28 workforce and a diminishing tax base; and
29

30 WHEREAS, brain drain, which is the emigration of highly
31 skilled or well-educated individuals, could lead to a negative
32 feedback loop between population decline and economic slowdown,



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1 as limited economic opportunities encourage high skilled and
 2 well-educated individuals to leave the State, weakening the
 3 State's economy, thereby further encouraging brain drain and
 4 exacerbating the decline in the population; and

5
 6 WHEREAS, the State already suffers from a shortage of
 7 teachers, doctors, nurses, and STEM professionals; now,
 8 therefore,

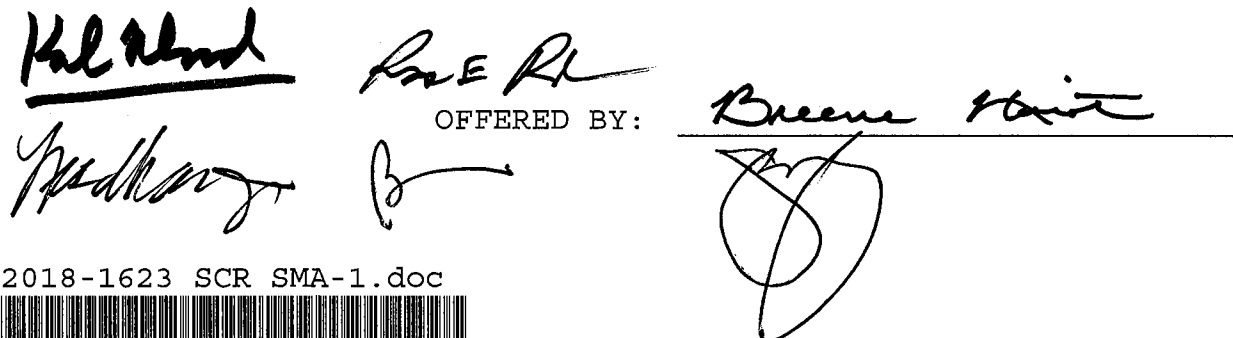
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 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
 12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 13 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
 14 conduct a study on population decline in Hawaii and the
 15 potential consequences to the State; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study should include:

- 18
 19 (1) Projections of the potential negative effects to the
 20 State's economy if the population continues to
 21 decline;
 22
 23 (2) An analysis of the underlying reasons for the
 24 emigration of Hawaii residents; and
 25
 26 (3) Recommendations for actions to address the causes of
 27 population decline; and
 28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 30 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
 31 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
 32 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 33 Session of 2019; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
 37 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

38
 39 Kalene Paul E. R.
 40
 OFFERED BY: Breene H.




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