
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MITIGATE THE DISPROPORTIONATE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017 ON HAWAII CITIZENS BY INCREASING FEDERAL SUPPORT OF HAWAII HOUSING INITIATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's cost of living is the highest in the
2 nation; and

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4 WHEREAS, utility costs in Hawaii are 106.5 percent higher
5 than the national average; and

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7 WHEREAS, housing costs in Hawaii are 103.3 percent higher
8 than the national average; and

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10 WHEREAS, the national median price of a single-family home
11 is currently \$241,700, while the median price in Hawaii is
12 currently \$772,000; and

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14 WHEREAS, experts estimate that Hawaii faces a shortage of
15 sixty-five thousand housing units, illustrating the depth of the
16 State's housing crisis; and

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18 WHEREAS, the median age of a single-family home in Hawaii
19 is between thirty to thirty-nine years old, which is
20 disproportionately older than the median age in other states;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, the older age of Hawaii homes means homeowners
24 must often invest considerable amounts for repairs and upgrades;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 reduces the debt
28 amount eligible for the mortgage interest deduction from
29 \$1,000,000 to only \$750,000, and eliminates the tax deduction
30 for interest on home equity loans if the loan proceeds are used
31 for purposes unrelated to the taxpayer's home; and



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 2 WHEREAS, many tax credits that benefit persons with lower
 3 incomes will sunset in 2027, creating a more regressive tax
 4 system with higher tax liabilities for those who can afford it
 5 least; and

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 7 WHEREAS, the changes created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
 8 of 2017 will affect a disproportionately high percentage of
 9 Hawaii residents compared to other states because of Hawaii's
 10 unique physical and economic environment; and

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 12 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently ranks as one of the states that
 13 is least dependent on federal aid, with federal assistance
 14 comprising only 22.8 percent of general revenues; now,
 15 therefore,

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 17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 18 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 19 of 2018, that the President of the United States and the United
 20 States Congress are urged to mitigate the high,
 21 disproportionately adverse impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
 22 of 2017 on Hawaii citizens by increasing federal funding of
 23 Hawaii housing initiatives; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
 26 States and the United States Congress are urged to request the
 27 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to
 28 increase funding levels to Hawaii programs, regardless of
 29 potential budget cuts to that department in pending federal
 30 appropriations bills; and

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 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 34 Vice President of the United States, Majority Leader of the
 35 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
 36 Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,
 37 United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,
 38 Governor, Director of Human Services, and Executive Director of
 39 the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

