

MAR 09 2023

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE  
INTERCEPTING SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN  
FOSTER CARE.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human  
2 Services Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System  
3 recorded 1,418 children in foster care in Hawaii on  
4 September 30, 2021; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, approximately ten percent of foster youth in the  
7 United States are entitled to Social Security benefits, either  
8 because their parents have died or because they have a physical  
9 or mental disability; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, Hawaii is among forty-nine states that currently  
12 intercept Social Security payments for children in foster care  
13 without the foster child's knowledge; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2022, the Hawaii Department of  
16 Human Services collected \$1,500,000 on behalf of thirty-seven  
17 children in foster care; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, intercepted Social Security payments are used by  
20 the Department of Human Services to pay for the foster child's  
21 care; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, intercepting Social Security payments meant for  
24 foster children limits their financial well-being as they pursue  
25 higher education or achieve financial independence; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, child welfare officials in New York City recently  
28 decided to end the practice of intercepting foster children's  
29 Social Security payments and plan to deposit the payments into  
30 savings accounts, which a foster child may access when the child



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1 is returned to their family, is adopted, or ages out of foster  
2 care; now, therefore,

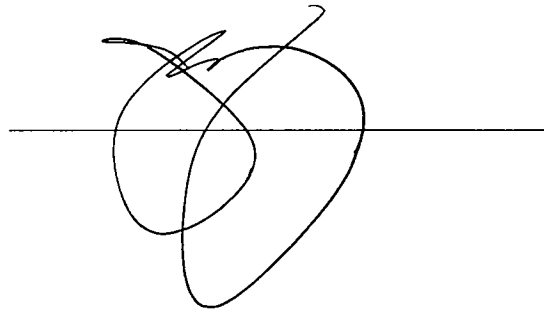
3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
7 Human Services is requested to immediately cease intercepting  
8 Social Security payments for children in foster care; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
11 Services is requested to deposit Social Security payments for  
12 foster children into savings accounts that may be accessed by  
13 foster children when they return to their families, are adopted,  
14 or age out of foster care; and

15  
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
18 Director of Human Services.

19  
20  
21

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned above a horizontal line.