
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URING THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO USE THE STATE'S
SURPLUS TO MEET THE UNMET CRITICAL SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL,
HEALTH, LONG-TERM CARE, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER NEEDS IN
THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR STATE, RATHER THAN ISSUING A TAX
REFUND.

1 WHEREAS, due to an increase in state revenues, it is
2 projected that there will be a surplus of several hundred
3 million dollars; and
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5 WHEREAS, Governor Linda Lingle is considering using the
6 surplus to provide a tax refund to its citizens; and
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8 WHEREAS, the media has often highlighted the problems and
9 unmet needs of Hawaii's public education system that could be
10 met in part by using the State's surplus; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii claims to be the "Health State" and enjoys
13 the highest percentage of individuals with medical coverage
14 across the nation, yet too many children, part-time workers, and
15 disabled persons receive no medical coverage and must either
16 survive without these essential human services or rely on State-
17 funded emergency services; and
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19 WHEREAS, with the anticipated wave of baby boomers entering
20 their retirement years in the very near future, it is necessary
21 for the State to play a leadership role and plan for this impact
22 on Hawaii's healthcare system; and
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24 Whereas, with the aging of Hawaii's population and the
25 increased life expectancy, it is also necessary to develop a
26 State plan that addresses the long-term care needs of all its
27 citizens, not just those who can afford the inordinately
28 expensive long-term care plan policies; and
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1 WHEREAS, the rising cost of affordable housing is causing
2 extreme hardship for Hawaii's citizens, especially seniors and
3 individuals with low incomes, resulting in increasing numbers of
4 homelessness; and

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6 WHEREAS, transportation costs are increasing and access to
7 reasonably-priced public transportation is getting more
8 difficult; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State has a responsibility to respond to these
11 areas of unmet social, educational, health, long-term care,
12 housing, and transportation needs for all of its citizens; now,
13 therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Hawaii Silver Legislature of 2005, the Senate concurring, that
17 Governor Linda Lingle and the members of the Legislature are
18 urged to use the expected State surplus to meet the tremendous
19 and critical needs in the following areas:

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21 (1) Lower and higher education;
22 (2) Health services so all citizens--children, workers,
23 retirees, disabled--may have adequate medical
24 coverage, including coverage for mental health
25 services;
26 (3) Long-term care for all citizens and a program to
27 support family caregivers;
28 (4) Reasonably-priced housing for all citizens, including
29 the homeless;
30 (5) Reasonably-priced transportation services for all; and
31 (6) Promoting a good business climate without deducting
32 worker's pay, medical coverage, or the ability to save
33 for a home or further education;

34
35 and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Silver Legislature,
38 consisting of senior citizens who helped to build our state and
39 country with our work ethic and our sacrifices, and who live
40 mostly on a fixed income, declares that we are willing to forego
41 any refund in state taxes to meet the unmet critical social,
42 educational, health, long-term care, transportation, and other
43 needs in the best interest of our State; and

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45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Concurrent
46 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of
47 Hawaii, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of
48 Representatives.