
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 land and natural resources' youth conservation corps program
3 helps participants develop a sense of stewardship of the land
4 and build valuable work experience through community service,
5 training, and education. A similar program utilizing Hawaii
6 inmates as conservation corps participants would also be
7 beneficial for the State.

8 Inmates who have earned community custody status can be
9 educated and trained to become part of managing and protecting
10 Hawaii's natural resources. An inmate conservation corps can
11 provide assistance with trail maintenance, native plant
12 restoration, invasive species control, wildlife management,
13 fence building, stream and coastal restoration, and other
14 conservation work. Moreover, being part of a conservation corps
15 would encourage leadership, teamwork, communication, and
16 responsibility among the inmate participants.



1 The purpose of this Act is preserve and protect Hawaii's
2 natural environment through a conservation corps comprised of
3 inmate work crews.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 193, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§193-A Inmate conservation corps program; establishment.

8 The department of land and natural resources in consultation
9 with the department of public safety shall plan, establish,
10 develop, and administer an inmate conservation corps for the
11 purpose of providing assistance with the management and
12 protection of Hawaii's natural resources. Participants in the
13 program shall be from a minimum security correctional facility
14 or have attained community custody level and have completed
15 appropriate basic education and training.

16 (b) The department is authorized to solicit, accept, and
17 expend appropriations and grants from public and private sources
18 and may accept donations to finance the projects, programs, and
19 activities of the inmate conservation corps.

20 (c) The department may enter into an agreement or
21 agreements with the department of public safety, any other state



1 agency or agencies, or with the appropriate federal authority to
2 accomplish the purposes of this section.

3 (d) The inmate conservation corps program shall include
4 activities that promote:

5 (1) The importance of responsibility, dependability,
6 punctuality, and good attendance;

7 (2) Worksite relations skills, including taking
8 constructive criticism, working cooperatively with
9 other corps members and staff, and western and
10 traditional Hawaiian job skills;

11 (3) Life skills training, including instruction in
12 conflict resolution, job search skills, personal money
13 management, goal setting, and decision making; and

14 (4) Education for twenty hours each week on subjects such
15 as genealogy, Hawaiian language and traditional
16 practices, reading, math, communication skills,
17 English language proficiency, academic preparation,
18 and work-specific skills."

19 SECTION 3. (a) The department of public safety shall
20 conduct a pilot program on the island of Hawaii that utilizes
21 select inmates to participate in the department of land natural
22 resources inmate conservation corps program. The participants



1 may perform resource conservation projects including, but not
2 limited to, forest fire prevention, forest and watershed
3 management, maintenance of recreation areas, fish and game
4 management, soil conservation, forest and watershed re-vegetation,
5 preventive maintenance or reconstruction of levees, or any other
6 work necessary to prevent flood damage.

7 (b) The participants of the pilot program shall:

8 (1) Be classified as minimum security risk or housed at a
9 minimum security correctional facility; or

10 (2) Have attained community custody status; and

11 (3) Have completed appropriate basic education and
12 training so as to be prepared for additional education
13 and training in natural resources conservation.

14 (c) The department shall:

15 (1) Ensure that participants are physically fit for work
16 outdoors and are likely to be successful in completing
17 conservation projects planned and developed by the
18 department of land and natural resources as provided
19 for in section 193-A, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

20 (2) Provide supervision for all inmate conservation corps
21 program participants at all projects, and for each



1 time the corps is at a site outside of a correctional
2 facility; and

3 (3) Determine any fee to be collected for services
4 provided by the corps.

5 SECTION 4. Not later than twenty days prior to the
6 convening of each regular session of the legislature, the
7 department of land and natural resources and the department of
8 public safety shall submit a joint annual report to the
9 legislature of all its activities relating to the inmate
10 conservation corps, including:

11 (1) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed;

12 (2) Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and
13 services offered to corps members;

14 (3) Statistics indicating the number of inmates
15 participating in the corps program and types of
16 community members directly served by the program;

17 (4) The benefits to the community and natural environment
18 of the corps program; and

19 (5) Success rates in helping corps members attain personal
20 achievement and growth.

21 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
 2 department of land and natural resources to plan, establish,
 3 develop, and administer an inmate conservation corps for the
 4 purpose of providing assistance with the management and
 5 protection of Hawaii's natural resources.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 7 land and natural resources, and the department of public safety,
 8 as appropriate, for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 6. In codifying the new section added by section 2
 10 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute an
 11 appropriate section number for the letter used in designating
 12 the new section in this Act.

13 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

15

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Cindy Evans
AMU
Shum & Co
By a joint

JAN 18 2008



Report Title:

Resource Conservation; Inmate Conservation Corps Program

Description:

Establishes an inmate conservation corps program within the department of land and natural resources. Authorizes the department to enter into agreements with other state or federal agencies to implement the program. Appropriates funds.

