

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AT-RISK PERSONS ON HAWAII ISLAND.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that conservation corps,
2 such as Americorps and the department of land and natural
3 resources' youth conservation corps, place participants in
4 natural resource conservation activities to help them develop a
5 sense of stewardship and build valuable work experience through
6 community service, training, and education. However, these
7 programs are mainly offered as summer activities for students.
8 A similar program for other segments of the population would
9 greatly benefit at-risk groups who need assistance in developing
10 life and job skills that will enable them to become responsible,
11 self-reliant citizens and would thereby benefit the entire
12 community.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a conservation
14 corps program to help at-risk persons on Hawaii island develop
15 life and job skills and gain work experience.

16 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
17 shall:



1 (1) Create a Hawaii conservation corps program on Hawaii
2 island incorporating natural resource conservation
3 activities to help corps members develop life and job
4 skills and gain work experience. The program shall be
5 designed to serve:

6 (A) At-risk youth, including youth with a history of
7 academic problems, negative peer groups, gang
8 affiliation, chronic truancy, anti-social
9 behavior, substance abuse, and other indicators
10 of potential juvenile delinquency; and

11 (B) At-risk adults, including parolees, substance
12 abusers, the homeless, and adults lacking
13 sufficient education, vocational skills, or a job
14 history necessary to obtain employment;

15 (2) Incorporate the following into the Hawaii conservation
16 corps program:

17 (A) Training to prepare new corps members for the
18 Hawaii conservation corps program;

19 (B) Physical fitness training;

20 (C) Work, as part of a crew of up to twelve corps
21 members, of twenty hours each week through which
22 corps members may learn:



- 1 (i) The importance of dependability,
- 2 punctuality, and good attendance;
- 3 (ii) Worksite relations skills, including taking
- 4 constructive criticism and working
- 5 cooperatively with other corps members and
- 6 staff; and
- 7 (iii) Western and traditional Hawaiian job skills;
- 8 (D) Life skills training including instruction in
- 9 conflict resolution, searching and applying for
- 10 jobs, retaining employment, personal money
- 11 management, setting goals, and decision making;
- 12 (E) Education for twenty hours each week on subjects
- 13 such as genealogy, Hawaiian language and
- 14 traditional practices, reading, math,
- 15 communication skills, English language
- 16 proficiency, academic preparation, and work-
- 17 specific skills; and
- 18 (F) Case management to oversee corps member
- 19 participation in other personal assistance
- 20 programs, such as substance abuse programs, while
- 21 maintaining a continuity of employment-focused
- 22 activity;



1 (3) Appoint an executive director and hire staff for the
2 Hawaii conservation corps program; and

3 (4) Collaborate with local, state, and federal government
4 and local employers to arrange for the employment of
5 corps members on a project-by-project basis.

6 The executive director of the Hawaii conservation corps
7 program shall consult, cooperate with, and seek advice from
8 appropriate organizations and agencies.

9 SECTION 3. The executive director of the Hawaii
10 conservation corps program may seek grants from public and
11 private sources and may accept donations to finance the
12 projects, programs, and activities of the Hawaii conservation
13 corps program.

14 SECTION 4. No later than twenty days prior to the
15 convening of each regular session of the legislature, the
16 department of land and natural resources shall submit to the
17 legislature an annual report of all its activities relating to
18 the Hawaii conservation corps program, including:

- 19 (1) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed;
20 (2) Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and
21 services offered to corps members;



- 1 (3) Statistics indicating the number and types of
- 2 community members directly served by the Hawaii
- 3 conservation corps program; and
- 4 (4) Success rates in helping corps members find employment
- 5 or otherwise attain personal achievements and growth.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to
9 establish and operate a Hawaii conservation corps program on
10 Hawaii island.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

14

INTRODUCED BY: *Russell F. Kohl*



Report Title:

Conservation Corps; Department of Land and Natural Resources

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a conservation corps program to help at-risk persons on Hawaii Island develop life and job skills and gain work experience.

