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# 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. (a) The department of human services shall:

17           (1) Create a Hawaii conservation corps program on Hawaii  
18           island incorporating natural resource conservation



1 activities to help corps members develop life and job  
2 skills and gain work experience. The program shall be  
3 designed to serve:

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

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

13 (2) Incorporate the following into the Hawaii conservation  
14 corps program:

15 (A) Training to prepare new corps members for the  
16 Hawaii conservation corps program;

17 (B) Physical fitness training;

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

21 (i) The importance of dependability,  
22 punctuality, and good attendance;



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



1 (4) Collaborate with:

2 (A) Local, state, and federal government and local  
3 employers to arrange for the employment of corps  
4 members on a project-by-project basis; and

5 (B) The department of land and natural resources and  
6 the department of education in the design and  
7 implementation of the Hawaii conservation corps  
8 program.

9 (b) The executive director of the Hawaii conservation  
10 corps program shall consult, cooperate with, and seek advice  
11 from:

12 (1) The department of land and natural resources and the  
13 department of education; and

14 (2) Other appropriate organizations and agencies.

15 (c) The executive director of the Hawaii conservation  
16 corps program may seek grants from public and private sources  
17 and may accept donations to finance the projects, programs, and  
18 activities of the Hawaii conservation corps program.

19 (d) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 each regular session of the legislature, the department of human  
21 services shall submit to the legislature an annual report of all



1 its activities relating to the Hawaii conservation corps  
2 program, including:

- 3 (1) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed;
- 4 (2) Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and  
5 services offered to corps members;
- 6 (3) Statistics indicating the number and types of  
7 community members directly served by the Hawaii  
8 conservation corps program; and
- 9 (4) Success rates in helping corps members find employment  
10 or otherwise attain personal achievements and growth.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated or authorized from  
12 temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of  
13 \$ , or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2007-2008, and the same sum, or so much thereof as may be  
15 necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, for the department of human  
16 services to establish and operate a Hawaii conservation corps  
17 program on Hawaii island pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

18 The sums appropriated or authorized shall be expended by  
19 the department of human services for the purposes of section 2  
20 of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Conservation Corps; At-Risk Persons

**Description:**

Requires the department of human services, in collaboration with the department of land and natural resources and the department of education, to establish and implement a conservation corps program to help at-risk persons on Hawaii island develop life and job skills and gain work experience; appropriates or authorizes temporary assistance for needy families funds. (SD1)

