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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELEWORK.

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

1           SECTION 1. Traffic-related congestion on Hawaii's roadways  
2 continues to increase every year. The morning and evening  
3 commutes are marked by long delays and increased time spent on  
4 the road as thousands of automobiles traverse Hawaii's highways  
5 and streets. With longer commute times, the working people of  
6 Hawaii are spending more time in their vehicles instead of using  
7 that time productively at work or home with their families.

8           The increase in automobiles on Hawaii's roadways means that  
9 the people of Hawaii are becoming more dependent on foreign  
10 fossil fuel sources. Currently, Hawaii has one of the highest  
11 prices for gas in the nation. In comparison to their mainland  
12 peers, the workers of Hawaii are using a larger percentage of  
13 their disposable income to pay for transportation to work.  
14 Massive commutes to work by car will continue to force Hawaii to  
15 rely on foreign fossil fuel sources and also continue to allow  
16 carbon emissions to deteriorate Hawaii's fragile environment.

17           The legislature finds that the concept of telecommuting to  
18 work has emerged as a viable workplace alternative. According



1 to a federal Office of Personnel Management survey in 2004, more  
2 than twenty-three million workers in the United States  
3 telecommuted to work. In 2002, a private research firm reported  
4 that thirty-five per cent of all employees in the United States  
5 used a home computer for work-related purposes. As of 2005,  
6 roughly five per cent of the federal workforce telecommuted to  
7 work and nine states have enacted state telecommuting policies.  
8 Today, the numbers reported in each of the studies mentioned  
9 above have likely increased because of the advancements in  
10 technology, escalating traffic congestion, rising transportation  
11 costs, health concerns, or environmental reasons.

12 The legislature finds that numerous studies across the  
13 nation have demonstrated that telecommuting provides an  
14 opportunity for employers to increase employee productivity,  
15 decrease employee sick leave, increase the labor pool, and even  
16 improve employee retention. The growth of telecommuting is  
17 partly attributable to the greater availability of broadband  
18 technology, employees placing a greater emphasis on work-life  
19 balance, rising office rents, and improvements in internet  
20 security.

21 The legislature further finds that telecommuting is a  
22 practical solution to environmental concerns and quality of life



1 issues that arise because of long commutes to work. Hawaii  
2 should lead by example and further encourage, promote, and  
3 increase efforts to adopt telecommuting as an alternative work  
4 environment so as to increase employee productivity, boost  
5 employee morale, and join in the worldwide efforts to reduce air  
6 pollution.

7       The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary  
8 telework task force. The task force shall develop a  
9 comprehensive plan to encourage and expand telework  
10 opportunities in both the public and private sectors that will  
11 help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of  
12 commuting, reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce  
13 traffic congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the workers  
14 of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more time either working  
15 from home or with their families, rather than in traffic.

16       SECTION 2. **Telework task force.** (a) There is established  
17 the temporary telework task force within the department of  
18 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative  
19 purposes only, to work in coordination with the department of  
20 human resources development. The task force shall be comprised  
21 of the following:



- 1           (1) Two members appointed by the president of the senate,  
2                   one of which shall be from the public sector and one  
3                   of which shall be from the private business sector;
- 4           (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
5                   representatives, one of which shall be from the public  
6                   sector and one of which shall be from the private  
7                   business sector;
- 8           (3) The director of business, economic development, and  
9                   tourism, or the director's designee, who shall  
10                  co-chair the task force;
- 11          (4) The director of human resources development, or the  
12                  director's designee, who shall co-chair the task  
13                  force;
- 14          (5) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the  
15                  president's designee;
- 16          (6) A member from the Hawaii government employees  
17                  association appointed by the speaker of the house of  
18                  representatives; and
- 19          (7) A member from a local business organization appointed  
20                  by the president of the senate.
- 21          (b) The telework task force shall:



1           (1) Develop a comprehensive plan to encourage and expand  
2           telework opportunities in both the public and private  
3           sectors that will help to alleviate the high  
4           transportation-related expenses of commuting, reduce  
5           Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic  
6           congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the  
7           workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more  
8           time either working from home or with their families,  
9           rather than in traffic;

10          (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that  
11          address issues specific to public sector and private  
12          sector employees;

13          (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan; and

14          (4) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task  
15          force.

16          SECTION 3. The members of the telework task force shall  
17          serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses  
18          necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel  
19          expenses.

20          SECTION 4. The telework task force shall report its  
21          findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than  
22          August 1, 2010.



1 SECTION 5. The telework task force shall cease to exist  
2 upon the filing of its findings and recommendations pursuant to  
3 section 4 of this Act.

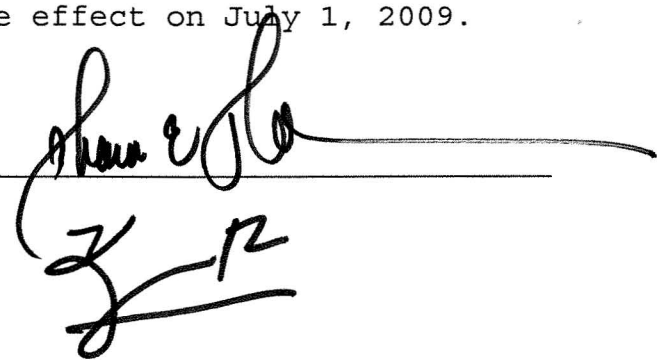
4 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 for  
7 the purpose of supporting the telework task force established by  
8 this Act.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
10 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of  
11 this Act.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

13

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 27 2009



**Report Title:**

Telework; Task Force; DBEDT; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the telework task force to develop a comprehensive plan that will encourage and expand telework opportunities in Hawaii while reducing harmful environmental impacts, traffic congestion, the dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage a better quality of life for people who commute to work in Hawaii. Makes an appropriation.

