
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A JOINT AGENCY STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATION IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, since 2007, there has been an increased awareness
2 and urgency among business and government to address the issue
3 of illegal or undocumented workers in the country and in the
4 State, many of which work in the construction industry; and
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6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that, nationally, one million four
7 hundred thousand undocumented workers are employed in the
8 construction industry; and
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10 WHEREAS, in a study conducted in 2005, it was estimated
11 that there were between twenty thousand and thirty-five thousand
12 undocumented immigrants in Hawaii, a population that has likely
13 increased since the 2005 study; and
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15 WHEREAS, between December 2007 and December 2008, an
16 estimated one hundred sixty-eight illegal undocumented workers
17 were arrested in Hawaii, of which sixty-one per cent were
18 working in the local construction industry, despite the fact
19 that thirty per cent of all unionized carpenters are unemployed
20 statewide; and
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22 WHEREAS, a 2006 estimate projected that the State spends
23 over \$9,000,000 each year in costs related to illegal or
24 undocumented aliens in Hawaii, including the costs for
25 education, emergency medical care, and incarceration; now,
26 therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2009, that the following agencies are requested to prepare
31 and conduct a joint study to assess the impact of illegal
32 immigration on Hawaii's economy and public resources:
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- 1 (1) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,
2 including the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health
3 Division and the Disability Compensation Division;
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- 5 (2) Department of Taxation;
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- 7 (3) Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce and
8 Consumer Affairs;
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- 10 (4) Department of Health;
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- 12 (5) Department of Education;
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- 14 (6) Corrections Division of the Department of Public
15 Safety;
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- 17 (7) Hawaii Public Housing Authority; and
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- 19 (8) Department of Human Services; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members involved in the joint
22 study are requested to select a lead agency and that the lead
23 agency, in consultation with all members of the joint study, is
24 requested to submit a report of the findings and recommendations
25 of the joint study, including any proposed legislation, no later
26 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
27 of 2010; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following agencies are
30 requested to form a task force to take immediate investigation
31 and enforcement actions to prevent the practice of hiring
32 undocumented workers, recover funds owed to the State by
33 companies that are found to hire undocumented workers, and
34 prevent companies found to employ undocumented workers from
35 doing business in the State:
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- 37 (1) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,
38 including the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health
39 Division and the Disability Compensation Division ;
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- 41 (2) Department of Taxation;
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- 43 (3) Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce and
44 Consumer Affairs; and



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(4) All appropriate licensing boards of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are requested to select a lead agency and that the lead agency, in consultation with all members of the task force, is requested to submit a report of the findings and recommendations of the task force, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Director of Taxation, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health, Superintendent of Education, Director of Public Safety, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

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