
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's community
2 colleges can play a critical role in the economic recovery and
3 revitalization of the State by supporting the individual worker
4 going back to school for enhanced career opportunities to
5 helping companies and nonprofit organizations change the way
6 they do business in these difficult economic times.

7 Community colleges are at the forefront of workforce
8 training both locally and across the United States. Nationally,
9 fifty-nine per cent of new nurses and a majority of new health
10 care workers are educated at community colleges. Nearly eighty
11 per cent of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and
12 emergency medical technicians are credentialed at community
13 colleges. And ninety-five per cent of businesses and
14 organizations that employ community college graduates recommend
15 and support community college workforce education and training
16 programs.

1 In Hawaii, enrollment in the community colleges has grown
2 by ten per cent in the past year, with the seven campuses
3 serving a record 28,591 students. Hawaii's community colleges
4 have been in the forefront of helping employers improve their
5 operations and overall efficiency through training programs.
6 For example, during the five months that a first time
7 supervisory training program was offered, over three hundred
8 thirty individuals participated in the program, saving
9 businesses \$71,000 through discounted tuition fees. And in
10 response to mass layoffs at Aloha Airlines, ATA, Molokai Ranch,
11 and Weyerhaeuser, \$70,000 was allocated from the community
12 college rapid response fund to help displaced workers. Eligible
13 for a one-time fifty per cent tuition scholarship (up to \$500
14 per displaced worker), eighty-four individuals took advantage of
15 this program to enhance their job skills during the fall of
16 2008, with more students expected to enroll in the spring 2009
17 semester.

18 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's community
19 colleges are poised to help both employees and employers prepare
20 to change the way they work. Employers will need to consider
21 downsizing, cross training, identifying efficiencies, and
22 developing new business models to survive and to preserve as

1 many jobs as possible. Employees will need access to affordable
2 training and professional services that can be delivered in a
3 timely manner.

4 The purpose of this Act is to enhance the workforce
5 development capacity of Hawaii's community colleges by
6 establishing a skilled worker and business development center to
7 provide workforce development to meet the rapidly evolving needs
8 of both employers and employees.

9 The skilled worker development center shall be implemented
10 at each community college and shall consist of programs
11 including, but not limited to: job search assistance, job
12 referral, placement assistance, reemployment services to
13 unemployment insurance claimants, and recruitment services to
14 employers with job openings.

15 This measure makes an appropriation to the University of
16 Hawaii to establish and start-up the skilled worker development
17 center; provided however, that a specific amount of the
18 appropriation is expended for each community college to
19 implement programs within the skilled worker development center
20 as they deem most appropriate for the particular community they
21 serve.

1 It is further the intent that the funds appropriated, to
2 the extent possible, shall be from funds received by the State
3 pursuant to section 209 of the Job Creation and Workers
4 Assistance Act of 2002, commonly referred to as the Reed Act.
5 The University of Hawaii may also expend moneys appropriated to
6 it by the legislature and additional revenues generated to cover
7 the cost of effectuating this Act to the extent that federal
8 moneys are not permitted to be used under the requirements of
9 the Reed Act.

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established under program ID
11 UOH 800, University of Hawaii community colleges, a skilled
12 worker and business development center to develop curriculum to
13 assist businesses and nonprofit organizations retrain and cross
14 train workers to adapt to the economic downturn and new
15 technology. The skilled worker and business development center
16 may be modeled after the Pacific center for advanced technology
17 training, which is a not-for-profit consortium of the University
18 of Hawaii community colleges.

19 The skilled worker and business development center shall
20 provide workforce development programs, including but not
21 limited to the following:

- 1 (1) Facilitated self-help courses that work with employees
2 to reassess skill sets, obtain additional training,
3 and consider new fields of work following a layoff or
4 loss of employment for other reason;
- 5 (2) Affordable re-training and cross-training programs to
6 assist specific small business and non-profit
7 organizations that are in the process of
8 reorganization of their business plan or structure;
- 9 (3) Specialized training courses to assist workers in
10 adapting to workplace changes, provided that the
11 necessity of the courses shall be supported by
12 empirical and statistical data; and
- 13 (4) Other program services identified as permissible
14 pursuant to the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933.
- 15 (b) In addition to providing workforce development, the
16 skilled worker and business development center shall include a
17 two-fold counseling component to provide:
- 18 (1) Assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations
19 that face difficult economic times or changes in their
20 industry; and
- 21 (2) Occupational and career counseling for displaced
22 workers or other individuals.

1 (c) There is established an advisory board for the skilled
2 worker and business development center, including but not
3 limited to, representatives of the:

4 (1) University of Hawaii community college system;

5 (2) Seven community college campuses;

6 (3) Department of education;

7 (4) County workforce investment boards;

8 (5) Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations;

9 (6) Hawai'i Community Foundation;

10 (7) Hawaii Business Roundtable Incorporated;

11 (8) Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;

12 (9) Small Business Administration; and

13 (10) United States armed forces in Hawaii.

14 (d) The skilled worker and business development center
15 shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty
16 days prior to the convening of the 2010 regular session setting
17 forth, at a minimum, the progress achieved regarding
18 establishment and start-up of the skilled worker and business
19 development center; the development plan for the skilled worker
20 and business development center; funding options,
21 recommendations, and requirements for the skilled worker and
22 business development center and the specific programs thereunder

1 at the various community colleges. Funding options shall
2 include, but not be limited to, funds appropriated pursuant to
3 section 383-123(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, other state funds,
4 private funds, federal grants, and self-generating income of the
5 University of Hawaii.

6 Thereafter, the skilled worker and business development
7 center shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
9 detailing the training and counseling programs, the numbers of
10 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals
11 participating in the center programs, and the usage of Reed Act
12 funds and other moneys from other sources used for the skilled
13 worker and business development center.

14 SECTION 3. (a) There is appropriated out of the
15 unemployment trust fund from moneys deposited pursuant to
16 section 383-123(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of
17 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be
19 necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to assist in the
20 establishment and start-up of the skilled worker and business
21 development center and the development of its skills-based
22 program, including curriculum design and counseling services;

1 provided, however, that \$ shall be provided to each
2 community college of the University of Hawaii system to
3 implement skills-based programs deemed appropriate by each
4 community college consistent with the skilled worker and
5 business development center.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act;
8 provided that the funds shall be expended in conjunction with
9 the University of Hawaii through the rapid response fund
10 established under program ID UOH 800, University of Hawaii
11 community colleges.

12 (b) To the extent that moneys appropriated pursuant to
13 subsection (a) are not permitted to be used to effectuate this
14 Act, the University of Hawaii may also expend moneys previously
15 appropriated to it by the legislature and additional revenues
16 generated.

17 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
18 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
19 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
20 conflicting part of this Act is inoperative solely to the extent
21 of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
22 affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the

1 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
2 concerned.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2070.

Report Title:

Workforce Development; University of Hawaii Community Colleges;
Reed Act Funds; Appropriation

Description:

Enhances the workforce development capacity of Hawaii's
community colleges by establishing a skilled worker and business
development center to provide workforce training to meet the
rapidly evolving needs of both employers and employees.
Appropriates Reed Act funds. (SD2)