

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION CORPS.

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 assist them in
5 developing a sense of stewardship and enable them to gain
6 valuable work experience through community service, training,
7 and education. Generally, these programs are only available as
8 summer activities to students. A similar program for at-risk
9 individuals in our community designed to assist them in
10 developing life and job skills to become responsible,
11 self-reliant citizens would be beneficial not only to these
12 individuals but to our communities and the State as well.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
14 land and natural resources to establish a two-year conservation
15 corps pilot program for the purpose of helping at-risk persons
16 to develop life and job skills and gain work experience. The



1 program shall be established in the county with the largest
2 contiguous land area in the State.

3 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
4 shall establish a Hawaii conservation corps pilot program in a
5 county with the largest contiguous land area in the State. The
6 program shall allow at-risk adults to serve in a conservation
7 program modeled after the Americorps program and the youth
8 conservation corps program. The program shall be designed to
9 focus on conservation and environmental protection, while
10 fostering work experience and life skills.

11 For purposes of this pilot program, "at-risk adult" is
12 defined to mean a person, aged eighteen years or older, who is
13 recovering from drug addiction or has recently been released
14 from prison and is reintegrating into the community.

15 SECTION 3. (a) No later than twenty days prior to the
16 convening of the 2010 regular session of the legislature, the
17 department of land and natural resources shall submit a status
18 report of all its activities relating to the Hawaii conservation
19 corps program, including but not limited to:

- 20 (1) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed;
21 (2) Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and
22 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 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 the 2011 regular session of the legislature, the department of
8 land and natural resources shall submit a final report of all
9 its activities relating to the Hawaii conservation corps
10 program, including all criteria from the initial report and
11 adding:

12 (1) The viability of continuation and expansion of the
13 program;

14 (2) Whether the program should be made permanent; and

15 (3) Any subsequent legislation that should be enacted to
16 improve the performance of the program or make it
17 permanent.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
22 2010-2011 to establish and operate a two-year pilot Hawaii



S.B. NO. 167

1 conservation corps program; provided that the funds appropriated
2 in this section are matched, dollar for dollar, by private
3 funds.

4 SECTION 5. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
5 department of land and natural resources for the purposes of
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.
8

INTRODUCED BY: Josh G.
Suzanne Chun Ouland
Randy H. Beck
Mike Hubbard



Report Title:

Hawaii Conservation Corps; Drug Addiction Recovery; Inmate Rehabilitation; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to establish a pilot conservation corps program to enable persons recovering from drug addiction and former inmates to participate in conservation and environmental protection. Appropriates funds for the pilot program.

