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# 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 National Civilian Community Corps and the  
3 department of land and natural resources Hawaii youth  
4 conservation corps, place participants in natural resource  
5 conservation activities to assist them in developing a sense of  
6 stewardship and enable them to gain valuable work experience  
7 through community service, training, and education. Generally,  
8 these programs are only available as summer activities to  
9 students. A similar program for at-risk individuals in our  
10 community designed to assist them in developing life and job  
11 skills to become responsible, self-reliant citizens would be  
12 beneficial not only to these individuals but to our communities  
13 and the State as well.

14           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
15 land and natural resources to establish a two-year conservation  
16 corps pilot program for the purpose of helping at-risk persons  
17 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 two-year pilot  
5 program in a county with the largest contiguous land area in the  
6 State. The program shall allow at-risk adults to serve in a  
7 conservation program modeled after the AmeriCorps National  
8 Civilian Community Corps program and the Hawaii youth  
9 conservation corps program. The program shall be designed to  
10 focus on conservation and environmental protection, while  
11 fostering work experience and life skills.

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

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

21 (1) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed;

1 (2) Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and  
2 services offered to corps members;

3 (3) Statistics indicating the number and types of  
4 community members directly served by the Hawaii  
5 conservation corps program; and

6 (4) Success rates in helping corps members find employment  
7 or otherwise attain personal achievements and growth.

8 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
9 the 2011 regular session of the legislature, the department of  
10 land and natural resources shall submit a final report of all  
11 its activities relating to the Hawaii conservation corps  
12 program, including all criteria from the initial report and  
13 adding:

14 (1) The viability of continuation and expansion of the  
15 program;

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

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

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the

1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2010-2011 to establish and operate a two-year pilot Hawaii  
3 conservation corps program; provided that the funds appropriated  
4 by this section are matched, dollar for dollar, by private or  
5 federal funds.

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

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

**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. (SD1)