
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII'S ECONOMY.

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

1 SECTION 1. If Hawaii is to be a player in a global
2 economy, it is essential that an assessment of the State's
3 economic conditions and prospects be assessed in an objective
4 manner to address serious challenges facing the State, including
5 but not limited to the overall high cost of living and doing
6 business in the State, the high costs of housing and
7 consumables, outward migration of skilled and knowledge workers,
8 and outward investment.

9 In view of the heightened competitiveness facing individual
10 states and countries, it is critical that the State's leaders
11 have a clear understanding of the global forces that influence
12 the State's economy, the State's relative competitiveness, and
13 policies and options that are available for placing the State on
14 an optimal development path.

15 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to
16 allow the legislative reference bureau to contract with an out-
17 of-state contractor to undertake a diagnostic assessment of the
18 conditions, challenges, and opportunities facing the State.

1 SECTION 2. The legislative reference bureau is directed to
2 contract with an out-of-state contractor to undertake the
3 following:

4 (1) A diagnostic assessment of the conditions, challenges,
5 and opportunities facing the State, to include but not
6 be limited to:

7 (A) A benchmarking of the State's key assets and
8 liabilities;

9 (B) An industry analysis to examine the key groupings
10 of industries that drive the State's economy;

11 (C) An assessment of the key competitive forces
12 affecting the State and its industries within it,
13 e.g., costs of living and doing business,
14 globalization and outsourcing, consumer trends,
15 and new technological developments; and

16 (D) An initial analysis of the key policies that are
17 affecting the State's economic global position;
18 and

19 (2) An overall strategy for addressing the challenges
20 facing the State and utilizing the advantages or
21 strengths of the State in meeting these challenges.

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 for
4 contracting the services of economic consultants with expertise
5 in international and local economic analysis to undertake the
6 diagnostic assessment set forth in section 2. To ensure the
7 objectivity of the analysis, the principal consultant selected
8 shall be an out-of-state economic consultant.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative
10 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. Not less than twenty days prior to the
12 convening of the regular session of 2011, the legislative
13 reference bureau shall submit the diagnostic assessment to the
14 legislature, along with any recommended proposed legislation.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Report Title:

State Economy; Economic Diagnostic Assessment

Description:

Requires the legislative reference bureau to undertake a diagnostic assessment of the State's economy. (SD1)