
SENATE 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 whom work in the construction industry; and
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6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that, nationally, 1,400,000
7 undocumented workers are employed in the construction industry;
8 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 Senate of the Twenty-fifth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
30 that the following agencies are requested to prepare and conduct
31 a joint study to assess the impact of illegal immigration on
32 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;
- 9
- 10 (4) Department of Health;
- 11
- 12 (5) Department of Education;
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- 14 (6) Corrections Division of the Department of Public
- 15 Safety;
- 16
- 17 (7) Hawaii Public Housing Authority;
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- 19 (8) Department of Human Services; and
- 20
- 21 (9) Department of Agriculture; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
 24 Industrial Relations is requested to serve as the lead agency
 25 which, in consultation with all members of the joint study, is
 26 requested to submit a report of the findings and recommendations
 27 of the joint study, including any proposed legislation, to the
 28 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 29 the Regular Session of 2010; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following agencies are
 32 requested to form a task force to develop strategies for taking
 33 immediate investigation and enforcement actions to prevent the
 34 practice of hiring undocumented workers, recover funds owed to
 35 the State by companies that are found to hire undocumented
 36 workers, and prevent companies found to employ undocumented
 37 workers from doing business in the State:
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- 39 (1) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,
- 40 including the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health
- 41 Division and the Disability Compensation Division;
- 42
- 43 (2) Department of Taxation;
- 44

- 1 (3) Department of Agriculture;
- 2
- 3 (4) Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce and
- 4 Consumer Affairs; and
- 5
- 6 (5) All appropriate licensing boards of the Department of
- 7 Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
10 Industrial Relations is requested to serve as the lead agency
11 which, in consultation with all members of the task force, is
12 requested to submit a report of the findings and recommendations
13 of the task force, including any proposed legislation, to the
14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2010; and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
19 Industrial Relations, Director of Taxation, Director of Commerce
20 and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health, Superintendent of
21 Education, Director of Public Safety, Chairperson of the Board
22 of Agriculture, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public
23 Housing Authority, and the Director of Human Services.