
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SENATE PRESIDENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
DETERMINE THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, tourism is Hawaii's principal industry, and
2 visitor expenditures added over \$12,000,000,000 into the State's
3 economy in 2007 and over \$11,000,000,000 in 2008; and
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5 WHEREAS, the construction industry is also important to
6 Hawaii's economy, contributing approximately \$3,400,000,000 to
7 the State's economy and employing over six per cent of the
8 State's workforce in 2008; and
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10 WHEREAS, the current economic situation has resulted in a
11 6.1 per cent unemployment rate in Hawaii as of January 2009, the
12 highest in over twenty-five years; furthermore, the Department
13 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism estimates visitor
14 arrivals will decline by 5.9 per cent for 2009, and the Chair of
15 the Hawaii Council on Revenues anticipates a 3.2 per cent
16 decline in construction in 2009; and
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18 WHEREAS, the decline of the housing and credit markets, and
19 the related construction downturn, and high unemployment are
20 significantly affecting Hawaii's economy; and
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22 WHEREAS, state support to study the current and potential
23 economic benefits of the construction industry is warranted,
24 given that the tourism and construction industries are such
25 important drivers of the local economy, and is further warranted
26 as the combined robustness of the construction, housing, and
27 tourism industries can ultimately navigate the State's economy
28 through the current recession to recovery; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
32 that the Senate President is requested to establish a task force
33 to determine the economic contributions of the construction
34 industry in Hawaii; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
2 following seventeen members, each appointed by the Senate
3 President and having one vote:
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- 5 (1) One member shall be a reputable contractor or
6 subcontractor to represent the construction industry;
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8 (2) One member shall be a representative of labor unions;
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10 (3) One member shall be a representative of the banking or
11 finance industry;
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13 (4) One member shall be a tax law professional;
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15 (5) Eight members shall be landowner representatives, with
16 one member representing each of the following islands:
17 Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Oahu, Kauai, Lanai,
18 and Niihau;
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20 (6) One member shall be a hotel or development industry
21 representative who has expertise in hospitality or
22 timeshares; and
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24 (7) Four members shall be representatives of federal,
25 state, and county governments who have expertise in
26 tax policy; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
29 shall select a chairperson from among themselves, and the
30 chairperson is requested to convene task force meetings; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 34 (1) Determine the value of the construction industry in
35 Hawaii, including both the direct contributions of the
36 industry to the local economy and the industry's
37 economic benefits through other industries, such as
38 tourism and housing; and
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40 (2) Develop and propose state actions, for the purpose of
41 preserving and creating new jobs in the local
42 construction industry, that should include but are not
43 limited to incentives for the renovation or
44 construction of hotels and other tourism-related

1 facilities, and to determine the anticipated impact of
2 those actions on the State's economy; and

3
4 (3) Include a recommendation on the implementation of any
5 proposed state actions developed by the task force, as
6 well as a timeline for the implementation of those
7 state actions; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
10 submit a report of its findings, analyses, and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Senate no later than
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
13 2010; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Senate President.