
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is
2 undergoing a significant and possibly protracted economic
3 downturn in tandem with the national and global economic and
4 financial crises. Numerous jobs have been lost, a number of
5 large and small companies have declared bankruptcy or left the
6 state, and many families have suffered foreclosure on their
7 heavily mortgaged houses. In the past year, the forecasts of
8 the council on revenues have consistently reduced the projected
9 tax revenues the State is expected to receive. Across-the-board
10 spending restrictions have already been put in place in state
11 government and a general hiring freeze has already been
12 implemented except in areas that impact public health and
13 safety.

14 In recognition of the situation throughout the United
15 States, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
16 Public Law No. 111-5, a federal economic stimulus package of aid
17 for distribution to the states, has been enacted. In
18 anticipation of receiving some of these federal funds, which

1 puts a focus on the creation of a clean energy economy and green
2 technology, the legislature finds that it is necessary to
3 identify and develop a framework for action to establish
4 partnerships and seek opportunities to develop a highly skilled
5 and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of an emerging
6 green economy sector.

7 Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the
8 emergency environmental workforce was created within the
9 research corporation of the University of Hawaii to employ
10 persons who lost their jobs in the subsequent economic downturn.
11 The legislature finds that a similar emergency workforce
12 development program is again required to provide employment and
13 retraining for persons affected by the current recession. The
14 legislature further finds that this program may be funded by the
15 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

16 Furthermore, through the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, in
17 partnership with the United States Department of Energy, Hawaii
18 is becoming a recognized national and international leader in
19 addressing issues like climate change, renewable energy, energy-
20 efficiency, and alternative transportation fuels to not only
21 stabilize its economy, but also to enhance and protect its
22 natural resources and environment. Hawaii's on-going efforts

1 that include an aggressive environmental workforce to address
2 invasive species eradication, watershed management, and a clean
3 energy economy provide an opportunity for Hawaii to develop a
4 "green collar" workforce.

5 The purpose of this Act is to prioritize the expenditure of
6 appropriate federal economic stimulus packages of aid in
7 developing the highly skilled and well-trained "green collar"
8 workforce needed by Hawaii's emerging "green economy" sector,
9 including:

- 10 (1) Identifying and linking green collar job opportunities
11 with workforce development training opportunities;
- 12 (2) Developing public, private, philanthropic, and
13 nongovernmental partnerships to build and expand the
14 state's green workforce development programs, network,
15 and infrastructure;
- 16 (3) Providing policy guidance for job training programs in
17 the clean energy and green technology sectors to
18 assist and prepare targeted populations such as
19 displaced workers, veterans, or at-risk groups;
- 20 (4) Developing, collecting, interpreting, and distributing
21 state and county labor market data on clean energy and

1 green industry workforce needs, trends, and job
2 growth;

3 (5) Assisting collaboration of the counties in the
4 development of the clean energy and green industry
5 workforce sector; and

6 (6) Establishing an emergency environmental workforce for
7 short-term employment for individuals who have
8 recently become unemployed due to Hawaii's recent
9 economic downturn. Individuals on the workforce will
10 assist the efforts to:

11 (A) Eradicate invasive species; and

12 (B) Carry out other ongoing environmental programs.

13 SECTION 2. The department of business, economic
14 development, and tourism shall identify and develop a policy
15 framework strategy for action to establish partnerships and seek
16 opportunities to develop the highly skilled and well-trained
17 "green collar" workforce needed for an emerging "green economy"
18 sector. In formulating the strategy, the department shall:

19 (1) Identify and link green collar job opportunities with
20 workforce development training opportunities;

21 (2) Develop public, private, philanthropic, and
22 nongovernmental partnerships to build and expand the

1 state's green workforce development programs, network,
2 and infrastructure;

3 (3) Provide policy guidance for job training programs in
4 the clean energy and green technology sectors to
5 assist and prepare targeted populations such as
6 displaced workers, veterans, or at-risk groups;

7 (4) Develop, collect, interpret, and distribute state and
8 county labor market data on clean energy and green
9 industry workforce needs, trends, and job growth; and

10 (5) Assist collaboration of the counties in the
11 development of the clean energy and green industry
12 workforce sector.

13 SECTION 3. There is established the emergency
14 environmental workforce to be attached to the research
15 corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative
16 purposes. The emergency environmental workforce program shall:

17 (1) Provide support and prevent layoffs in existing
18 environmental programs;

19 (2) Employ approximately four hundred to four hundred
20 fifty individuals who were terminated or laid off from
21 their jobs as a result of the local economic downturn.

1 The individuals shall be employed as short-term
2 employees; and
3 (3) Deploy employees to all state or county agencies
4 certifying a need for environmental clearance and
5 eradication services to supplement current services
6 being provided for the eradication of invasive species
7 or other ongoing environmental improvement programs.

8 SECTION 4. (a) In connection with the establishment under
9 section 3 of this Act of the emergency environmental workforce
10 program, the research corporation of the University of Hawaii
11 shall:

- 12 (1) Together with the Pacific cooperative studies unit of
13 the University of Hawaii, develop a planning,
14 administration, implementation, and evaluation
15 strategy, including a program duration plan and a
16 budget for contract and administrative expenses;
17 (2) Consult with private employers whose workforces have
18 been, or that may be, affected by layoffs from the
19 recent economic downturn to develop a recruitment and
20 public information plan;

1 (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection
2 of emergency environmental workforce program
3 participants;

4 (4) Work with state and county agencies requesting
5 services to administer physical examinations, as may
6 be necessary, to qualifying applicants prior to final
7 offers;

8 (5) Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,
9 the president of the senate, and the speaker of the
10 house of representatives every sixty days for the
11 duration of the program; and

12 (6) Undertake all other necessary activities for
13 development and implementation of the emergency
14 environmental workforce program.

15 (b) In connection with the establishment under section 3
16 of this Act of the emergency environmental workforce program,
17 the employees described in section 3(2) and (3) of this Act
18 shall be subject to the research corporation of the University
19 of Hawaii's policies and procedures relating to employment;
20 provided that any applicable unemployment insurance coverage for
21 such employees shall be the responsibility of the State of
22 Hawaii. In addition, all procurement actions related to the

1 emergency environmental workforce program shall be subject to
2 the applicable research corporation of the University of Hawaii
3 policies.

4 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of federal funds
5 received by the State from the American Recovery and
6 Reinvestment Act of 2009 and any other applicable federal acts
7 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
8 fiscal year 2009-2010 for the department of business, economic
9 development, and tourism to identify and develop a policy
10 framework strategy for action to establish partnerships and seek
11 funding opportunities to develop the highly skilled and well-
12 trained "green collar" workforce needed for an emerging "green
13 economy" sector as required by this Act.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of federal funds
18 received by the State from the American Recovery and
19 Reinvestment Act of 2009 and any other applicable federal acts
20 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
21 fiscal year 2009-2010 to fund the emergency environmental
22 workforce created by this Act.

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
2 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
3 Act.

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

Report Title:

Green Collar Workforce; Emergency Environmental Workforce

Description:

Appropriates federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to develop and retain the highly skilled and well-trained green collar workforce needed by Hawaii's emerging green economy sector and to implement the Emergency Environmental Workforce Program. (SD1)