
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the recent collapse
2 of national credit, housing, financial, and other markets has
3 culminated in the current national economic crisis, which
4 continues to have severe consequences on the local economy,
5 including significant losses in local air transportation,
6 tourism, restaurant, and other industries.

7 While government assesses the State's long-term needs and
8 continues its efforts to lessen negative economic impacts of
9 activities or undertakings beyond our control, immediate short-
10 term solutions are needed for Hawaii's people being negatively
11 impacted with reduced work schedules or layoffs. Immediate
12 solutions for immediate relief will require unprecedented levels
13 of cooperation between state and local government, and between
14 public and private entities, and bold yet productive proposals.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
16 establishment of an emergency environmental workforce for short-
17 term employment for individuals who have lost their jobs because
18 of Hawaii's recent economic downturn. Individuals willing to



1 accept the challenge of a workforce job will assist the efforts
2 to:

- 3 (1) Isolate the spread of the nettle caterpillar;
- 4 (2) Eradicate the miconia plant and other invasive plants;
- 5 and
- 6 (3) Reduce coqui frog and fire ant populations.

7 SECTION 2. There is established the emergency
8 environmental workforce to be attached to the research
9 corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative
10 purposes. The emergency environmental workforce shall:

- 11 (1) Employ approximately four hundred to four hundred
12 fifty individuals who were terminated from their jobs
13 as a result of the local economic downturn. The
14 individuals shall be employed as three-month contract
15 employees;
- 16 (2) Deploy contract employees to all island mayors
17 certifying a need for environmental clearance and
18 eradication services to supplement current services
19 being provided for the isolation of the nettle
20 caterpillar, the eradication of the miconia plant and
21 other invasive plants, and the reduction of coqui frog
22 and fire ant populations; and



1 (3) Coordinate its efforts with the efforts of the
2 department of agriculture.

3 SECTION 3. The research corporation of the University of
4 Hawaii shall:

5 (1) Together with the Pacific cooperative studies unit,
6 develop a planning, administration, implementation,
7 and evaluation strategy, including a program duration
8 plan and a budget for contract and administrative
9 expenses for the sum appropriated;

10 (2) Consult with private employers with workforces, which
11 have, or which may be, affected by layoffs resulting
12 from the economic downturn to develop a recruitment
13 and public information plan;

14 (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection
15 of program participants;

16 (4) Work with island mayors requesting cleaning and
17 eradication services to administer physical
18 examinations, as may be necessary, to qualifying
19 applicants prior to final contract offers;

20 (5) Request that the attorneys employed or retained by the
21 University of Hawaii prepare the necessary employment



1 contracts to meet the objectives of the program on an
2 expedited basis;

3 (6) Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,
4 the senate president, and the house speaker every
5 sixty days for the duration of the program; and

6 (7) Undertake all other necessary activities for program
7 development and implementation.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the special land
9 and development fund the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much thereof as
10 may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the establishment
11 of an emergency environmental workforce to be administered by
12 the research corporation of the University of Hawaii.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
14 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
15 Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures: James Hwang, JHE, Matthew Nguyen, Cindy Brown]

[Handwritten signatures: Denny Coffey, Raymond Hanstman, Pao Choy, Calvin W. Jay, Mark Blakostina, Gus Louie]



Report Title:

Environmental Workforce

Description:

Establishes the emergency environmental workforce.

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