
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 council on
8 revenues has consistently reduced its forecasts of Hawaii's tax
9 revenues. Across-the-board spending restrictions have already
10 been put in place in state government, and a general hiring
11 freeze has already been implemented except in areas that impact
12 public health and safety.

13 In recognition of this situation throughout the United
14 States, there is widely expected a federal economic stimulus
15 package of aid for distribution to the states. In anticipation
16 of these federal funds, the legislature finds that it is
17 necessary to prioritize the use of these moneys to address the
18 State's critical environmental needs.



1 Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the
2 emergency environmental workforce was created within the
3 Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii to employ
4 persons who lost their jobs in the subsequent economic downturn.
5 The legislature finds that a similar emergency workforce
6 development program is again required to provide employment for
7 persons affected by the current recession. The legislature
8 further finds that this program may be funded by the anticipated
9 federal economic stimulus funds.

10 The purpose of this Act is to prioritize the expenditure of
11 any federal economic stimulus package of aid to establish an
12 emergency environmental workforce for short-term employment for
13 individuals who have recently become unemployed due to Hawaii's
14 recent economic downturn. Individuals willing to accept the
15 challenge of a workforce job will assist the efforts to:

- 16 (1) Eradicate invasive species; and
- 17 (2) Carry out other ongoing environmental programs.

18 SECTION 2. There is established the emergency
19 environmental workforce to be attached to The Research
20 Corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative
21 purposes. The emergency environmental workforce shall:



- 1 (1) Employ approximately four hundred to four hundred
2 fifty individuals who were terminated or laid off from
3 their jobs as a result of the local economic downturn.
4 The individuals shall be employed as short-term
5 contract employees; and
- 6 (2) Deploy contract employees to all state or county
7 agencies certifying a need for environmental clearance
8 and eradication services to supplement current
9 services being provided for the eradication of
10 invasive species or other ongoing environmental
11 improvement programs.

12 SECTION 3. The Research Corporation of the University of
13 Hawaii shall:

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



- 1 (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection
2 of program participants;
- 3 (4) Work with state and county agencies requesting
4 services to administer physical examinations, as may
5 be necessary, to qualifying applicants prior to final
6 contract offers;
- 7 (5) Direct that the attorneys employed or retained by the
8 University of Hawaii prepare the necessary employment
9 contracts to meet the objectives of the program on an
10 expedited basis;
- 11 (6) Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,
12 the senate president of the senate, and the speaker of
13 the house of representatives every sixty days for the
14 duration of the program; and
- 15 (7) Undertake all other necessary activities for program
16 development and implementation.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of federal funds
18 received by the State from the economic stimulus act of 2009 the
19 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
20 fiscal year 2009-2010 to fund the emergency environmental
21 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 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:
Environment

Description:
Creates the emergency environmental workforce to provide employment to persons who have lost their jobs in the economic downturn and prioritizes the allocation of federal economic stimulus funds for the operation of this program.

