
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. Across-the-board spending restrictions have
10 already been put in place in state government, and a general
11 hiring freeze has already been implemented except in areas that
12 impact public health and safety.

13 In recognition of this situation throughout the United
14 States, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a
15 federal economic stimulus package of aid for distribution to the
16 states, has been enacted. In anticipation of these federal
17 funds, which puts a focus on the creation of a clean energy
18 economy and green technology, the legislature finds that it is



1 necessary to identify and develop a framework for action to seek
2 partnerships and opportunities to address the need for a highly
3 skilled and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of an
4 emerging green economy sector developed through the American
5 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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

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



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

4 The purpose of this Act is to prioritize the expenditure of
5 any federal economic stimulus package of aid to address the
6 growing need for a highly skilled and well-trained "green
7 collar" workforce to meet the needs of Hawaii's emerging "green
8 economy" sector, including:

- 9 (1) Identifying and linking green collar job opportunities
10 with workforce development training opportunities to
11 meet state and county demands;
- 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 for action to seek partnerships and opportunities to
16 address the need for a highly skilled and well-trained "green
17 collar" workforce to meet the needs of an emerging "green
18 economy" sector. In formulating the strategy, the department
19 shall:

- 20 (1) Identify and link green collar job opportunities with
21 workforce development training opportunities to meet
22 state and county demands;



- 1 (2) Develop public, private, philanthropic, and
2 nongovernmental partnerships to build and expand the
3 state's green workforce development programs, network,
4 and infrastructure;
- 5 (3) Provide policy guidance for job training programs in
6 the clean energy and green technology sectors to
7 assist and prepare targeted populations such as
8 displaced workers, veterans, or at-risk groups;
- 9 (4) Develop, collect, interpret, and distribute state and
10 county labor market data on clean energy and green
11 industry workforce needs, trends, and job growth; and
- 12 (5) Assist collaboration of the counties in the
13 development of the clean energy and green industry
14 workforce sector.

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

- 19 (1) 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 contract employees; and
3 (2) Deploy contract employees to all state or county
4 agencies certifying a need for environmental clearance
5 and eradication services to supplement current
6 services being provided for the eradication of
7 invasive species or other ongoing environmental
8 improvement programs.

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

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



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

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of federal funds
16 received by the State from the American Recovery and
17 Reinvestment Act of 2009 and any other applicable federal acts
18 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
19 fiscal year 2009-2010 for the department of business, economic
20 development, and tourism to identify and develop a policy
21 framework for action to seek partnerships and funding
22 opportunities to address the need for a highly skilled and well-



1 trained "green collar" workforce to meet the needs of an
2 emerging "green economy" sector as required by this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
5 this Act.

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

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

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



Report Title:

Environment; green economy sector; workforce

Description:

Appropriates federal funds from the economic stimulus package to (1) DBEDT to identify and develop a strategy to meet the needs of a green economy sector; and (2) RCUH to create an emergency environmental workforce to provide employment to persons who have lost their jobs in the economic downturn. (HB281 HD2)

