
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 any federal economic stimulus package of aid in developing the
7 highly skilled and well-trained "green collar" workforce needed
8 by Hawaii's emerging "green economy" sector, including:

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



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

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

9 (A) Eradicate invasive species; and

10 (B) Carry out other ongoing environmental programs.

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

17 (1) Identify and link green collar job opportunities with
18 workforce development training opportunities;

19 (2) Develop public, private, philanthropic, and
20 nongovernmental partnerships to build and expand the
21 state's green workforce development programs, network,
22 and infrastructure;



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

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

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

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

15 (1) Employ approximately four hundred to four hundred
16 fifty individuals who were terminated or laid off from
17 their jobs as a result of the local economic downturn.
18 The individuals shall be employed as short-term
19 contract employees; and

20 (2) Deploy contract employees to all state or county
21 agencies certifying a need for environmental clearance
22 and eradication services to supplement current



1 services being provided for the eradication of
2 invasive species or other ongoing environmental
3 improvement programs.

4 SECTION 4. In connection with the establishment under
5 section 3 of this Act of the emergency environmental workforce
6 program, the research corporation of the University of Hawaii
7 shall:

- 8 (1) Together with the Pacific cooperative studies unit of
9 the University of Hawaii, develop a planning,
10 administration, implementation, and evaluation
11 strategy, including a program duration plan and a
12 budget for contract and administrative expenses;
- 13 (2) Consult with private employers whose workforces have
14 been, or that may be, affected by layoffs from the
15 recent economic downturn to develop a recruitment and
16 public information plan;
- 17 (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection
18 of emergency environmental workforce program
19 participants;
- 20 (4) Work with state and county agencies requesting
21 services to administer physical examinations, as may



1 be necessary, to qualifying applicants prior to final
2 contract offers;

3 (5) Direct that the attorneys employed or retained by the
4 University of Hawaii prepare the necessary employment
5 contracts to meet the objectives of the emergency
6 environmental workforce program on an expedited basis;

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

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

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



1 trained "green collar" workforce needed for an emerging "green
2 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, 2020.



Report Title:

Green Collar Workforce; Emergency Environmental Workforce

Description:

Appropriates federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to develop 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. (HB281 HD3)

