
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELEWORK.

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

1 SECTION 1. Traffic-related congestion on Hawaii's roadways
2 continues to increase every year. The morning and evening
3 commutes are marked by long delays and increased time spent on
4 the road as thousands of automobiles traverse Hawaii's highways
5 and streets. With longer commute times, the working people of
6 Hawaii are spending more time in their vehicles instead of using
7 that time productively at work or home with their families.

8 The increase in automobiles on Hawaii's roadways means that
9 the people of Hawaii are becoming more dependent on foreign
10 fossil fuel sources. Currently, Hawaii has one of the highest
11 prices for gas in the nation. In comparison to their mainland
12 peers, the workers of Hawaii are using a larger percentage of
13 their disposable income to pay for transportation to work.
14 Massive commutes to work by car will continue to force Hawaii to
15 rely on foreign fossil fuel sources and also continue to allow
16 carbon emissions to deteriorate Hawaii's fragile environment.

1 The legislature finds that the concept of telecommuting to
2 work has emerged as a viable workplace alternative. According
3 to a federal Office of Personnel Management survey in 2004, more
4 than twenty-three million workers in the United States
5 telecommuted to work. In 2002, a private research firm reported
6 that thirty-five per cent of all employees in the United States
7 used a home computer for work-related purposes. As of 2005,
8 roughly five per cent of the federal workforce telecommuted to
9 work and nine states have enacted state telecommuting policies.
10 Today, the numbers reported in each of the studies mentioned
11 above have likely increased because of the advancements in
12 technology, escalating traffic congestion, rising transportation
13 costs, health concerns, or environmental reasons.

14 The legislature finds that numerous studies across the
15 nation have demonstrated that telecommuting provides an
16 opportunity for employers to increase employee productivity,
17 decrease employee sick leave, increase the labor pool, and even
18 improve employee retention. The growth of telecommuting is
19 partly attributable to the greater availability of broadband
20 technology, employees placing a greater emphasis on work-life
21 balance, rising office rents, and improvements in internet
22 security.

1 The legislature further finds that telecommuting is a
2 practical solution to environmental concerns and quality of life
3 issues that arise because of long commutes to work. Hawaii
4 should lead by example and further encourage, promote, and
5 increase efforts to adopt telecommuting as an alternative work
6 environment so as to increase employee productivity, boost
7 employee morale, and join in the worldwide efforts to reduce air
8 pollution.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary
10 telework task force. The task force shall develop incentives
11 and recommendations to encourage and expand telework
12 opportunities in both the public and private sectors that will
13 help to alleviate the high transportation-related expenses of
14 commuting, reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce
15 traffic congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the workers
16 of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more time either working
17 from home or with their families, rather than in traffic.

18 **SECTION 2. Telework task force.** (a) There is established
19 the temporary telework task force within the department of
20 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative
21 purposes only, to work in coordination with the department of

1 human resources development. The task force shall be comprised
2 of the following:

- 3 (1) Two members appointed by the president of the senate,
4 one of which shall be from the public sector and one
5 of which shall be from the private business sector;
- 6 (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of
7 representatives, one of which shall be from the public
8 sector and one of which shall be from the private
9 business sector;
- 10 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
11 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 12 (4) The director of human resources development, or the
13 director's designee;
- 14 (5) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the
15 president's designee;
- 16 (6) A member from the Hawaii government employees
17 association appointed by the speaker of the house of
18 representatives; and
- 19 (7) A member from a local business organization appointed
20 by the president of the senate;

21 provided that the members of the task force shall collectively
22 appoint a chairperson of the task force.

- 1 (b) The telework task force shall:
- 2 (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage
- 3 and expand telework opportunities in both the public
- 4 and private sectors throughout the State that will
- 5 help to alleviate the high transportation-related
- 6 expenses of commuting, reduce Hawaii's dependence on
- 7 fossil fuel, reduce traffic congestion on Hawaii's
- 8 roadways, and provide the workers of Hawaii with an
- 9 opportunity to spend more time either working from
- 10 home or with their families, rather than in traffic;
- 11 (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that
- 12 address issues specific to public sector and private
- 13 sector employees;
- 14 (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan; and
- 15 (4) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task
- 16 force.

17 SECTION 3. The telework task force shall report its

18 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than

19 August 1, 2010. The legislative reference bureau shall provide

20 administrative and staffing support to the telework task force

21 in drafting the report.

1 SECTION 4. The telework task force shall cease to exist on
2 July 1, 2010.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

Report Title:

Telework; Task Force; DBEDT

Description:

Establishes the telework task force to develop incentives and recommendations that will encourage and expand telework opportunities in Hawaii while reducing harmful environmental impacts, traffic congestion, the dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage a better quality of life for people who commute to work in Hawaii. (SD1)