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# 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 at home with their families.

8           The increase in automobiles on Hawaii's roadways results in  
9 the people of Hawaii becoming more dependent on foreign fossil  
10 fuel sources. Currently, Hawaii has one of the highest prices  
11 for gas in the nation. In comparison to their mainland peers,  
12 the workers of Hawaii are using a larger percentage of their  
13 disposable income to pay for transportation to work. Many  
14 workers continuing to commute to work by car will continue or  
15 increase Hawaii's reliance on foreign fossil fuel sources,  
16 creating carbon emissions that contribute to the deterioration  
17 of 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 telecommute to work. In 2002, a private research firm reported  
6 that thirty-five per cent of all employees in the United States  
7 use a home computer for work-related purposes. As of 2005,  
8 roughly five per cent of the federal workforce telecommutes 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 advancements in  
12 technology, escalating traffic congestion, rising transportation  
13 costs, and health or environmental concerns.

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 a workplace  
6 alternative to increase employee productivity, boost employee  
7 morale, and join in worldwide efforts to reduce air pollution.

8           The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary  
9 telework task force. The task force shall develop incentives  
10 and recommendations to encourage and expand telework  
11 opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

12           SECTION 2. **Telework task force.** (a) There is established  
13 the temporary telework task force within the department of  
14 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative  
15 purposes only, to work in coordination with the department of  
16 human resources development. The task force shall be comprised  
17 of the following:

18           (1) Two members appointed by the president of the senate,  
19 one of whom shall be from the public sector and one of  
20 whom shall be from the private business sector;

21           (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
22 representatives, one of whom shall be from the public

1 sector and one of whom shall be from the private  
2 business sector;

3 (3) The director of business, economic development, and  
4 tourism, or the director's designee;

5 (4) The director of human resources development, or the  
6 director's designee;

7 (5) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the  
8 president's designee;

9 (6) A member from the Hawaii government employees  
10 association appointed by the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives; and

12 (7) A member from a local business organization appointed  
13 by the president of the senate;

14 provided that the members of the task force shall collectively  
15 appoint a chairperson of the task force.

16 (b) The telework task force shall:

17 (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage  
18 and expand telework opportunities in both the public  
19 and private sectors throughout the State that will  
20 help to alleviate the high cost of commuting, reduce  
21 Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic  
22 congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the

1 workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more  
2 time either working from home or with their families,  
3 rather than in traffic;

4 (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that  
5 address issues specific to public sector and private  
6 sector employees;

7 (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan; and

8 (4) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task  
9 force.

10 SECTION 3. The telework task force shall report its  
11 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than  
12 August 1, 2010. The legislative reference bureau shall provide  
13 administrative and staffing support to the telework task force  
14 in drafting the report.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

**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. (SD2)