

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL  
WORKFORCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. Act 4, Third Special Session Laws of Hawaii  
2 2001, is amended by amending sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 to read as  
3 follows:

4           ~~["SECTION 1. The September 11, 2001, tragedy, resulting~~  
5 ~~from terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania,~~  
6 ~~has changed the lives of Americans and the way government~~  
7 ~~responds to acts of terrorism. Today, all levels of government~~  
8 ~~across the nation are facing challenges to meet the needs of all~~  
9 ~~constituents.~~

10           ~~The federal government faces the monumental task of~~  
11 ~~developing and implementing America's response to violent acts~~  
12 ~~of terrorism and preparing an extensive network of security and~~  
13 ~~intelligence to meet national and international needs. While~~  
14 ~~New York faces the enormous tasks of rebuilding and restoring~~  
15 ~~disrupted services to its people, other state and local~~  
16 ~~governments across the nation must deal with the "ripple effect"~~  
17 ~~of a disrupted world economy.~~



1       ~~Here in Hawaii, state and county leaders of executive and~~  
2 ~~legislative branches of government have begun to assess the~~  
3 ~~impact of September 11 on the local economy within the context~~  
4 ~~of broader national and international economies. While the~~  
5 ~~visitor industry has been the first segment of our local economy~~  
6 ~~to suffer the effects of decreased leisure travel, other~~  
7 ~~ancillary or related industries have been impacted as well.~~

8       ~~Analysis and research are still needed to provide a clearer~~  
9 ~~forecast as to the potential duration and depth of the visitor~~  
10 ~~downturn.~~

11       ~~While government assesses the State's long term needs and~~  
12 ~~continues its efforts to lessen negative economic impacts of~~  
13 ~~activities or undertakings beyond our control, immediate short-~~  
14 ~~term solutions are needed for Hawaii's people being negatively~~  
15 ~~impacted with reduced work schedules or layoffs. Immediate~~  
16 ~~solutions for immediate relief will require unprecedented levels~~  
17 ~~of cooperation between state and local government, and between~~  
18 ~~public and private entities, and bold yet productive proposals.~~

19       ~~The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the~~  
20 ~~establishment of an emergency environmental workforce for short-~~  
21 ~~term employment for individuals who have lost their jobs because~~  
22 ~~of Hawaii's recent economic downturn. Individuals willing to~~



1 ~~accept the challenge of a workforce job will assist the efforts~~  
2 ~~to:~~

3 ~~(1) Isolate the spread of dengue fever,~~

4 ~~(2) Eradicate the miconia plant and other invasive plants,~~  
5 ~~and~~

6 ~~(3) Reduce coqui frog and fire ant populations."]~~

7 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the September 11,  
8 2001 terrorist attacks continue to have lasting impacts on the  
9 lives of Hawai'i residents and other Americans. The ensuing wars  
10 in Afghanistan and Iraq are ongoing and have cost the United  
11 States over \$600 billion thus far. The exorbitant economic cost  
12 of these wars represents an opportunity cost of providing social  
13 safety nets and ultimately translates into lower resiliency in  
14 the face of economic downturns.

15 The legislature finds that the recent collapse of national  
16 credit, housing, financial, and other markets has culminated in  
17 the current, national economic crisis, which continues to have  
18 severe consequences on the local economy, including significant  
19 losses in local air transportation, tourism, restaurant, and  
20 other industries. Moreover, the department of labor and  
21 industrial relations forecasts state employment to grow by just  
22 0.07 per cent annually from 2007 to 2009.



1        During severe national and local economic downturns, the  
2        legislature finds cost-efficiency to be an important principle  
3        in determining which state activities to pursue and prioritize.  
4        Activities that can accomplish multiple goals can help the state  
5        weather seasons of financial shortage. The legislature further  
6        finds that the emergency environmental workforce is a program  
7        that provides short-term employment to those who need it and  
8        uses that workforce to protect Hawai'i's environment, and that it  
9        should be continued, especially during future times of war or  
10       significant economic hardship.

11       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to continue  
12       the emergency environmental workforce for short-term employment  
13       for individuals who have lost their jobs due to recent national  
14       and local economic downturns and to continue the emergency  
15       environmental workforce during future periods of warfare or  
16       significant economic hardship.

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



- 1           (1) Employ, as three-month contract employees,  
2                    approximately four hundred to four hundred fifty  
3                    individuals who were terminated from their jobs:  
4                    (A) [after the September 11 tragedy as] As a result  
5                    of the local economic downturn[-] following the  
6                    September 11 tragedy;  
7                    (B) As a result of acts of war; or  
8                    (C) As a result of significant local economic  
9                    downturn;

10 ~~[The individuals shall be employed as three month contract~~  
11 ~~employees,]~~

- 12           (2) Deploy contract employees to all island mayors  
13                    certifying a need for environmental clearance and  
14                    eradication services to supplement current services  
15                    being provided for the isolation of dengue fever, the  
16                    eradication of the miconia plant and other invasive  
17                    plants, and the reduction of coqui frog and fire ant  
18                    populations; and

- 19           (3) Coordinate its efforts with the efforts of the  
20                    invasive species committee on each island.

21           SECTION 3. The ~~[Research Corporation]~~ research corporation  
22 of the University of Hawaii shall:

- 1           (1) Together with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit,  
2           develop a planning, administration, implementation,  
3           and evaluation strategy, including a program duration  
4           plan and a budget for contract and administrative  
5           expenses for the sum appropriated;
- 6           (2) Consult with private employers with workforces, which  
7           have, or which may be, affected by layoffs [~~from the~~  
8           ~~economic downturn as a result of the September 11~~  
9           ~~tragedy~~] resulting from any of the events set forth in  
10          section 2 of this Act to develop a recruitment and  
11          public information plan;
- 12          (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection  
13          of program participants;
- 14          (4) Work with island mayors requesting cleaning and  
15          eradication services to administer physical  
16          examinations, as may be necessary, to qualifying  
17          applicants prior to final contract offers;
- 18          (5) Request that the attorneys employed or retained by the  
19          University of Hawaii prepare the necessary employment  
20          contracts to meet the objectives of the program on an  
21          expedited basis;



- 1           (6)   Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,  
2                   the senate president, and the house speaker every  
3                   sixty days for the duration of the program; and
- 4           (7)   Undertake all other necessary activities for program  
5                   development and implementation.

6           SECTION 4.   There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001-2002 for the  
9 establishment of an emergency environmental workforce to be  
10 administered by [~~The Research Corporation~~] the research  
11 corporation of the University of Hawaii.

12           The sum appropriated shall be expended by [~~The Research~~  
13 ~~Corporation~~] the research corporation of the University of  
14 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act."

15           SECTION 2.   There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the  
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
19 2010-2011 to continue the emergency environmental workforce to  
20 be administered by the research corporation of the University of  
21 Hawaii.



# S.B. NO. 713

1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the research  
2 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this  
3 Act.

4           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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*D*





**Report Title:**

Emergency Environmental Workforce; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to continue the emergency environmental workforce program in light of recent national and local economic downturns and wars, and provides for the continuation of the emergency environmental workforce during future periods of warfare or significant economic hardship.

