

JAN 21 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 as follows:

3 1. By amending section 1 to read:

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 Hawaii residents and Americans everywhere. The ensuing
10 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have cost the United States
11 billions of dollars thus far. The exorbitant economic cost of
12 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.

21 During severe national and local economic downturns, the
22 legislature finds cost-efficiency to be an important principle



1 in determining which state activities to pursue and prioritize.
2 Activities that can accomplish multiple goals can help the State
3 weather seasons of financial shortage. The legislature further
4 finds that the emergency environmental workforce is a program
5 that provides short-term employment to those who need it and
6 provides a workforce to protect Hawaii's environment. The
7 legislature also finds that the emergency environmental
8 workforce program should be continued, especially during times
9 of war or significant economic hardship that will likely occur
10 in the future.

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

17 2. By amending section 2 to read:

18 "SECTION 2. There is established the emergency
19 environmental workforce to be attached to [~~The Research~~
20 ~~Corporation~~] the research corporation of the University of
21 Hawaii for administrative purposes. The emergency environmental
22 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
4 jobs [~~after the September 11 tragedy as~~]:

5 (A) As a result of [the] significant local economic
6 downturn [~~. The individuals shall be employed as~~
7 three-month contract employees]; or

8 (B) As a result of acts of war;

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

16 (3) Coordinate its efforts with the efforts of the
17 invasive species committee on each island."

18 3. By amending section 3 to read:

19 "SECTION 3. The [~~Research Corporation~~] research
20 corporation of the University of Hawaii shall:

21 (1) Together with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit,
22 develop a planning, administration, implementation,



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



1 (7) Undertake all other necessary activities for program
2 development and implementation."

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2012-2013 to continue the emergency environmental workforce
8 to be administered by the research corporation of the University
9 of Hawaii.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the research
11 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
12 Act.

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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Report Title:

Emergency Environmental Workforce; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the establishment of an emergency environmental workforce program in light of recent national and local economic downturns and wars; provides for the continuation of emergency environmental workforce services during periods of warfare or significant economic hardship.

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