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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Hawaii has felt the adverse impacts of national  
2 and global economies that have seen rising unemployment.  
3 Hawaii's unemployment rate was 6.5 per cent in November 2011.  
4 In contrast to this high level of unemployment, there remain  
5 over three thousand vacancies among state job positions. Some  
6 positions have been vacant for decades. The average vacant  
7 state position has been unfilled for a mean length of about nine  
8 hundred forty days and a median length of about seven hundred  
9 forty-six days. Over seventy-one thousand individuals are  
10 employed with the State.

11           The State recognizes that maintaining a job position that  
12 may never be filled is an inefficient use of funds, time, and  
13 human resources.

14           The purpose of this Act is to help encourage state agencies  
15 to hire qualified applicants in a timely manner, and to  
16 eliminate unnecessary positions by requiring those agencies to  
17 fill positions within ten years after a vacancy.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
3 read as follows:

4 "§37- Job vacancy elimination. (a) A state agency  
5 shall inform the director of budget and finance of any position  
6 in the state agency that has remained vacant for a continuous  
7 period of ten years by including a report on the position in the  
8 estimate submitted to the department of budget and finance under  
9 section 37-34. The department may consider the vacancy in its  
10 determinations under section 37-35 and may reduce the amount  
11 allotted to the state agency.

12 (b) If a state agency wants to retain an unfilled position  
13 included in the estimate submitted to the department under  
14 section 37-34, the state agency shall give the director specific  
15 and valid reasons for retaining the position.

16 (c) If the director determines that the reasons given by  
17 the state agency are insufficient, the director shall inform the  
18 state agency of why the reasons for retaining the position  
19 submitted by the state agency are insufficient and shall reduce  
20 the position and the amount allotted to the state agency.



1        (d) The director shall report each quarter on actions  
2 taken under this section to the legislature in the manner  
3 provided under section 93-16.

4        (e) As used in this section:

5        "State agency" means any executive department, independent  
6 commission, board, agency, authority, bureau, office, or other  
7 establishment of the state government (except the legislature  
8 and the judiciary), or any quasi-public institution which is  
9 supported in whole or in part by state funds.

10        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2012



# H.B. NO. 2217

**Report Title:**

Budget; Removal of Vacant Positions

**Description:**

Requires State agencies to fill job positions within ten years after a vacancy; requires the automatic removal of funds for positions vacant longer than ten years.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

