

HB2217 HD2

Authorizes DLIR to establish working groups to identify high growth industries and workforce needs and to develop training programs. Appropriates unspecified funds. Effective January 20, 2050. (HB2217 HD2)



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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March 14, 2014

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Sam Slom, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Government
Operations and Housing

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Monday, March 17, 2014
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 16
State Capitol

Re: H.B. No. 2217 HD 2 Relating to Workforce Development

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- The proposed legislation amends Chapter 371, HRS, by adding a new section that allows the department to establish work groups for the purposes of identifying emerging or growing industries, determining necessary skill sets for jobs in those industries, and developing training programs to provide those skills.
- The work groups shall consist of representatives from education, post-secondary education, and business communities.

The department supports this bill if its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

II. CURRENT LAW

Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, added a new section to Chapter 371, HRS, to establish an agricultural workforce advisory board to promote agricultural self-sufficiency. However, no funding was appropriated to implement its operation.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

- Workgroups that identify and address skill shortages in specific areas will help remove silos among education, workforce, and business communities so that public resources can nimbly respond to business needs and create a highly skilled workforce to support growing demands.
- The workgroups are intended to quickly address immediate workforce needs and solve long-term workforce issues. Having a qualified workforce supports the establishment and growth of new industries and enables businesses to utilize local workers instead of recruiting from out-of-state.
- The workgroups would encourage companies normally in competition with each other to solve shared human resource problems and collaboratively develop training programs and materials for their workers.
- The success of workgroups has been demonstrated in different states, including Washington State, where over 30 work groups (called "skill panels") have identified and addressed skill shortages in numerous occupations.*
- A variation of the Washington skills panel model was used by the department to identify specific skill gaps in Hawaii's healthcare, agriculture, and software development industries. The department and the State Workforce Development Council convened industry leaders, educators, and workforce partners to identify skills shortages and recommend solutions in each area. (For Hawaii's Skill Panels Reports, go to <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/reports/>)
- However, when the federal grants used to convene these work groups expired, the groups could not be sustained. There were no funds to develop recommended training. For a work group to be effective, additional funds would be necessary to develop training and to sustain work groups over a longer period so their continued feedback can help redesign training to meet changing market demands.
- For these reasons, DLIR supports this proposal if its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

*"Industry Skill Panels" State of Washington Workforce Training and Educational Coordinating Board. www.wtb.wa.gov/IndustrySkillPanel.asp



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February 7, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
HOUSING AND
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TESTIMONY ON HB 2217 HD2
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Room 16
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Hee and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports HB2217HD2**, authorizing DLIR to establish workgroups to identify workforce and training needs.

Hawaii's commercial farmers' average age is more than 60 years. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self sufficiency and sustainability. Two years ago DLIR in conjunction with HDOA conducted a series of meetings in all Counties to identify workforce needs of the industry. We expect that this measure is a follow up of these sessions and we applaud this effort.

The activities enabled by passage of this legislation will lead to implemented strategies yielding favorable outcomes for the state's economy, particularly the agricultural sector.

Additionally, farmers and ranchers endure numerous regulatory requirements. Among them, labor laws are among the most problematic; with significant differences between Federal and State requirements. Training to meet these and other requirements is vital. Farmers and ranchers have been inspected and cited by Federal DOL on Oahu, Big Island and Maui for infractions that they did not realize were in non-compliance. The 2013 Legislature passed into law training provisions for agriculture that was left unfunded. We ask for your support of funding requests to implement this measure as requested by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

We respectfully request your **strong support of this measure with funding and by restoring the effective date to the passage of this measure.**

Thank you.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government
Operations and Housing and Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, March 17, 2014 at 10:15 A.M.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2217 HD2 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Hee, Vice Chairs Slom and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2217 HD2 which authorizes DLIR to establish working groups to identify high growth industries and workforce needs and to develop training programs.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

It is important for Hawaii to focus its efforts in developing training programs to support the workforce. A strong workforce is necessary to strengthen Hawaii's economy. Investing in Hawaii's resources would bring outside development and attract foreign industries to Hawaii and ensure the continuation of these new investments by offering educated workers who are well-equipped to fulfill a variety of positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EGHTestimony](#)
Cc: Ormorse0@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2217 on Mar 17, 2014 10:15AM
Date: Saturday, March 15, 2014 12:35:33 PM

HB2217

Submitted on: 3/15/2014

Testimony for EGH/JDL on Mar 17, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Morse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chairs DelaCruz and Hee, I would oppose this measure as it rings too much of Communism. It seems we have plenty of vocational schools and community collages, as well as the U.H. campuses to fill this need, without having to involve the DLNR. I hope you see fit to defer this. Thank You Richard

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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