
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the wage standards
2 division of the department of labor and industrial relations had
3 a backlog of four hundred twenty complaints as of October 9,
4 2015. Two hundred eleven of those complaints are prevailing
5 wage claims against fifty-eight employers on one hundred fifty
6 projects, which amounts to one hundred fifty pending prevailing
7 wage investigations conducted pursuant to chapter 104, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes. The wage standards division receives an
9 average of fifty-six prevailing wage complaints per year. Over
10 the last ten years, however, the wage standards division
11 finished, on average, thirty-five prevailing wage complaints
12 each year. Unless the division receives more staff and
13 resources, the division will not be able to reduce its backlog
14 of wage complaints.

15 The legislature further finds that the division requires
16 additional staffing to perform the statutory responsibilities
17 relating to wages. Reestablishing three labor law enforcement



1 specialist IV positions and two labor law enforcement specialist
 2 III positions within the department of labor and industrial
 3 relations will restore the State's ability to effectively
 4 enforce Hawaii's wage laws, including laws regarding wages on
 5 public works that use taxpayer funds.

6 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that Hawaii employees'
 7 wages are protected and paid in accordance with the law by
 8 reestablishing and funding five positions in the wage standards
 9 division that were lost in the reduction-in-force from 2009.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
 13 establishment of three permanent, full-time equivalent labor law
 14 enforcement specialist IV positions and two permanent, full-time
 15 equivalent labor law enforcement specialist III positions,
 16 subject to chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and for
 17 other current expenses related to these positions.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 19 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



Report Title:

Wage Standards Division; Positions; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for five additional labor law enforcement specialist positions in the department of labor and industrial relations to protect Hawaii employees' wages and enforce Hawaii's labor laws, including wage and hour laws on public works construction projects. (HB2472 HD1)

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