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# 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 approximately four hundred twenty complaints as of  
4 October 9, 2015. Two hundred eleven of those complaints are  
5 prevailing wage claims against fifty-eight employers on one  
6 hundred fifty projects, which amounts to one hundred fifty  
7 pending prevailing wage investigations conducted pursuant to  
8 chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The wage standards  
9 division receives an average of fifty-six prevailing wage  
10 complaints per year. Over the last ten years, however, the wage  
11 standards division finished, on average, thirty-five prevailing  
12 wage complaints each year. Unless the division receives more  
13 staff and resources, the division will not be able to reduce its  
14 backlog 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  
18 specialist IV positions and two labor law enforcement specialist



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

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

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$249,864 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
12 establishment of three permanent, full-time equivalent labor law  
13 enforcement specialist IV positions and two permanent, full-time  
14 equivalent labor law enforcement specialist III positions,  
15 subject to chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and for  
16 other expenses related to these positions.

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

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

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**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. (SD1)

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

