
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Alexander & Baldwin,
2 Inc. recently announced that their sugar plantation operations
3 in Hawaii are set to close at the end of 2016 and this year will
4 be the last sugar harvest on its 36,000-acre plantation on Maui.
5 The six hundred seventy-five people employed by its subsidiary,
6 Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company, will be laid off
7 progressively starting in March as their responsibilities come
8 to an end. The legislature further finds that the closure of
9 the sugar industry, as well as the shutdown of Heald College,
10 further wreaks havoc on the local economy. Such economic
11 devastation is nothing new; within a span of one month beginning
12 in March 2008, four large Hawaii companies (Molokai Ranch, Aloha
13 Airlines, ATA airlines, and Weyerhaeuser Company) closed their
14 doors, leaving 2,362 island employees jobless.

15 In response to the mass layoffs at Aloha Airlines, the
16 department of labor and industrial relations created the State's
17 rapid response team to address issues such as job readiness,



1 training, medical benefits, public assistance and jobs search
2 assistance to assist displaced workers.

3 The purpose of this Act is to implement a program of
4 benefits similar to the rapid response program that was put into
5 place to assist displaced employees of Aloha Airlines.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§201- Rapid Response Training. (a) There is
10 established the rapid response training program in the
11 department of business, economic development, and tourism. The
12 purpose of the program shall be to facilitate the development of
13 a rapid response training capacity in Hawaii that will be
14 capable of developing and delivering, for businesses and
15 industries, short-term customized training programs, which
16 cannot be provided in a timely fashion by existing training
17 programs.

18 (b) The program shall achieve its purpose by:
19 (1) Working with the workforce development community,
20 county economic development boards, business and
21 industry associations, and other appropriate



1 entities to identify and market rapid response
2 custom training to the business community;
3 (2) Contracting with firms requesting customized
4 training to provide for the development and delivery
5 of such training;
6 (3) Contracting with appropriate training providers for
7 the development of customized training programs; and
8 (4) Upon commencement of training delivery, collecting
9 fees from contracted firms for the training of their
10 current or prospective employees.

11 (c) The department of business, economic development, and
12 tourism shall contract for the development of custom training
13 programs with educational and training resources in the public
14 and private sectors throughout the State, as may be appropriate
15 to accomplish the purpose of the program.

16 (d) The rapid response training program shall place a
17 priority on developing training programs that provide high-
18 skilled workers for jobs paying the median wage in new or
19 expanding businesses, and for which the rapid development and
20 delivery of training is important to the decision of the firm or
21 industry to make the proposed business investment. The program



1 shall also place priority on business expansions that propose to
2 train or retrain workers who are unemployed or facing
3 unemployment due to mass-layoff events.

4 (e) The program shall develop measures of program
5 performance to assess the impact of the training provided under
6 the rapid response program on the supply of high skilled workers
7 in the economy and the impact on the development of sustained,
8 new business activity.

9 §201- Rapid response training revolving fund. (a)

10 There is established in the state treasury the rapid response
11 training revolving fund, into which shall be deposited:

- 12 (1) Appropriations by the legislature;
13 (2) Training fees paid by firms or other agencies and
14 organizations related to training services;
15 (3) Donations and contributions made by private
16 individuals or organizations for deposit into the
17 fund; and
18 (4) Grants or transfers of funds provided by governmental
19 agencies or any other source.

20 (b) Moneys in the rapid response training revolving fund
21 shall be used by the department:



- 1 (1) To contract with appropriate training providers for
- 2 the development of rapid response custom training
- 3 programs; and
- 4 (2) For administrative expenses, including but not limited
- 5 to supplies, equipment, and services necessary for the
- 6 appropriate administration of the rapid response
- 7 training program."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: 
 JAN 27 2016



H.B. NO. 2642

Report Title:

Employment Training; Rapid Response.

Description:

Establishes a rapid response training program to facilitate rapid custom training in the event of sudden layoff.

Establishes a rapid response training revolving fund.

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