

JAN 2 1 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. Traffic-related congestion on Hawaii's roadways
2 continues to increase every year. The morning and evening
3 commutes are marked by long delays and increased time spent on
4 the road as thousands of automobiles traverse Hawaii's highways
5 and streets. With longer commute times, the working people of
6 Hawaii are spending more time in their vehicles instead of using
7 that time productively at work or at home with their families.

8 The increase in automobiles on Hawaii's roadways results in
9 the people of Hawaii becoming more dependent on foreign fossil
10 fuel sources. Currently, Hawaii has one of the highest prices
11 for gas in the nation. In comparison to their mainland peers,
12 the workers of Hawaii are using a larger percentage of their
13 disposable income to pay for transportation to work. Many
14 workers continuing to commute to work by car will continue or
15 increase Hawaii's reliance on foreign fossil fuel sources,



1 creating carbon emissions that contribute to the deterioration
2 of Hawaii's fragile environment.

3 The legislature finds that numerous studies across the
4 nation have demonstrated that telecommuting provides an
5 opportunity for employers to increase employee productivity,
6 decrease employee sick leave, increase the labor pool, and even
7 improve employee retention. The growth of telecommuting is
8 partly attributable to the greater availability of broadband
9 technology, employees placing a greater emphasis on work-life
10 balance, rising office rents, and improvements in internet
11 security.

12 The legislature further finds that telecommuting is a
13 practical solution to environmental concerns and quality of life
14 issues that arise because of long commutes to work. Hawaii
15 should lead by example and further encourage, promote, and
16 increase efforts to adopt telecommuting as a workplace
17 alternative to increase employee productivity, boost employee
18 morale, and join in worldwide efforts to reduce air pollution.

19 The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary
20 telecommuting task force to develop incentives and



1 recommendations to encourage and expand telecommuting
2 opportunities in the public and private sectors.

3 SECTION 2. Temporary telecommuting task force; membership;
4 duties; reporting. (a) There is established the temporary
5 telecommuting task force within the department of business,
6 economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes
7 only.

8 (b) For purposes of this Act:

9 (1) The temporary telecommuting task force shall
10 collaborate with the department of human resources
11 development; and

12 (2) The department of human resources development shall
13 assist the task force, including providing data, as
14 appropriate.

15 (c) The task force shall be comprised of the following
16 members:

17 (1) Two members to be appointed by the president of the
18 senate, one of whom shall be from the public sector
19 and one of whom shall be from the private business
20 sector;



- 1 (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives, one of whom shall be from the public
3 sector and one of whom shall be from the private
4 business sector;
- 5 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
6 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 7 (4) The director of human resources development, or the
8 director's designee;
- 9 (5) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the
10 president's designee;
- 11 (6) A member from the Hawaii government employees
12 association appointed by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives; and
- 14 (7) A member from a local business organization appointed
15 by the president of the senate.

16 The members of the task force shall collectively appoint a
17 chairperson of the task force.

18 (d) The telecommuting task force shall:

- 19 (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage
20 and expand telecommuting opportunities in the public
21 and private sectors throughout the State that will



1 help to alleviate the high cost of commuting, reduce
2 Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic
3 congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the
4 workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more
5 time either working from home or with their families,
6 rather than in traffic;

7 (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that
8 address issues specific to public sector and private
9 sector employees;

10 (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan; and

11 (4) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task
12 force.

13 (e) The telecommuting task force shall report its findings
14 and recommendations to the legislature no later than August 1,
15 2017. The legislative reference bureau shall provide
16 administrative and staffing support to the telecommuting task
17 force in drafting the report.

18 SECTION 4. The telecommuting task force shall cease to
19 exist on June 30, 2018.

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S.B. NO. 2144

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2144

Report Title:

Temporary Telecommuting Task Force; DBEDT; DHRD

Description:

Establishes a temporary telecommuting task force to develop incentives and recommendations to encourage and expand telecommuting opportunities in the public and private sectors.

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