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# 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,  
16 creating carbon emissions that contribute to the deterioration  
17 of Hawaii's fragile environment.



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

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

17           The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary  
18 telecommuting task force to develop incentives and  
19 recommendations to encourage and expand telecommuting  
20 opportunities in the public and private sectors.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the telecommuting  
2 task force within the department of business, economic  
3 development, and tourism for administrative purposes only.

4 (b) For purposes of this Act:

5 (1) The telecommuting task force shall collaborate with  
6 the department of human resources development; and

7 (2) The department of human resources development shall  
8 assist the task force, including by providing data, as  
9 appropriate.

10 (c) The task force shall be composed of the following  
11 members:

12 (1) Two members to be appointed by the president of the  
13 senate, one of whom shall be from the public sector  
14 and one of whom shall be from the private business  
15 sector;

16 (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
17 representatives, one of whom shall be from the public  
18 sector and one of whom shall be from the private  
19 business sector;

20 (3) The director of business, economic development, and  
21 tourism, or the director's designee;



- 1           (4) The director of human resources development, or the
- 2           director's designee;
- 3           (5) The director of labor and industrial relations, or the
- 4           director's designee;
- 5           (6) The director of transportation, or the director's
- 6           designee;
- 7           (7) The president of the university of Hawaii, or the
- 8           president's designee;
- 9           (8) A member from the Hawaii Government Employees
- 10          Association appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 11          representatives; and
- 12          (9) A member from a local business organization appointed
- 13          by the president of the senate.

14           The members of the task force shall collectively appoint a

15 chairperson of the task force from among themselves. The task

16 force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

- 17          (d) The telecommuting task force shall:
- 18           (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage
- 19           and expand telecommuting opportunities in the public
- 20           and private sectors throughout the State that will
- 21           help to alleviate the high cost of commuting, reduce



- 1 Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic  
2 congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the  
3 workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more  
4 time either working from home or with their families,  
5 rather than in traffic;
- 6 (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force that  
7 address issues specific to public sector and private  
8 sector employees;
- 9 (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan;
- 10 (4) Study and analyze the telecommuting policies of the  
11 federal government and jurisdictions that are similar  
12 in size to Hawaii; and
- 13 (5) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task  
14 force.
- 15 (e) The telecommuting task force shall report its findings  
16 and recommendations to the legislature no later than August 1,  
17 2018. The legislative reference bureau shall provide  
18 administrative and staffing support to the telecommuting task  
19 force in drafting the report.
- 20 SECTION 3. The telecommuting task force shall cease to  
21 exist on June 30, 2019.



**1** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Telecommuting Task Force; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Human Resources Development

**Description:**

Establishes a temporary telecommuting task force to develop incentives and recommendations to encourage and expand telecommuting opportunities in the public and private sectors.  
(SB798 HD1)

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