
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of
2 Molokai has struggled for years with limited opportunities for
3 gainful employment, and that the impending relocation of Mycogen
4 Seeds from Molokai to Kauai, due to the merger of agricultural
5 companies Dow and DuPont in September 2017, will have a
6 significant economic impact. As a result of the relocation,
7 eighty-two permanent and seasonal jobs will be lost from the
8 island of Molokai. The announcement of Mycogen Seeds's
9 relocation, along with many other recent job losses, together
10 with the challenges caused by the past year's reduction in
11 options for inter-island transportation, have only intensified
12 the concern about Molokai's economy and the economic stability
13 and well-being of its residents. The executive director of the
14 Molokai Chamber of Commerce has indicated that Molokai-based
15 employees of Mycogen Seeds would find it difficult to relocate
16 to Kauai for employment, due to the fact that Molokai residents
17 are often relied upon by their fellow residents to provide care



1 are often relied upon by their fellow residents to provide care
2 for children or aging parents. The legislature recognizes that
3 as a result of the job losses and their trickle-down effects,
4 families on Molokai may lose their homes, cars, and ability to
5 pay for their children's college tuition.

6 The legislature further finds that a number of state and
7 county offices and agencies have been working together to
8 determine how to optimally assist Molokai's soon-to-be displaced
9 workers and address the detrimental economic impact to the
10 community. These offices and agencies include the office of the
11 governor; the department of labor and industrial relations; the
12 department of business, economic development, and tourism; the
13 department of human resources development; and the department of
14 agriculture. Due to the significance of this undertaking,
15 members of the Maui county council and members of the Hawaii
16 senate and house of representatives and their standing
17 committees have also been providing input and assistance.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to support the
19 continued availability of gainful employment on
20 Molokai.



SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the office of the governor; the department of labor and industrial relations; the department of business, economic development, and tourism; the department of human resources development; and the department of agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

The sum appropriated shall be expended as follows for the purposes of this Act:

(1) \$ by the office of the governor;

(2) \$ by the department of labor and industrial relations;

(3) \$ by the department of business, economic development, and tourism;

(4) \$ by the department of human resources development; and

(5) \$ by the department of agriculture.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY: Lyn DeCorte

JAN 24 2018



H.B. NO. 2671

Report Title:

Displaced Workers; Island of Molokai; Governor; DLIR; DBEDT;
DHRD; DOA; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor; the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Agriculture to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and address the overall continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

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