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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 vehicles traverse Hawaii's highways and  
5 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 vehicles 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 who commute to work by car will continue or increase  
15 Hawaii's reliance on foreign fossil fuel sources, creating  
16 carbon emissions that contribute to the deterioration of  
17 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 human resources development  
3 for administrative purposes only.

4       (b) The department of human resources development shall  
5 assist the task force, including by providing data, as  
6 appropriate.

7       (c) The task force shall be composed of the following  
8 members:

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

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

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

19       (4) The director of human resources development, or the  
20 director's designee;



1 (5) The director of labor and industrial relations, or the  
2 director's designee;

3 (6) The director of transportation, or the director's  
4 designee;

5 (7) The chief information officer, or the officer's  
6 designee;

7 (8) A member from the Hawaii Government Employees  
8 Association appointed by the speaker of the house of  
9 representatives; and

10 (9) A member from a local business organization appointed  
11 by the president of the senate.

12 The director of human resources development shall serve as  
13 chairperson of the task force.

14 (d) The task force shall:

15 (1) Develop incentives and recommendations to encourage  
16 and expand telecommuting opportunities in the public  
17 and private sectors throughout the State that will  
18 help to alleviate the high cost of commuting, reduce  
19 Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel, reduce traffic  
20 congestion on Hawaii's roadways, and provide the  
21 workers of Hawaii with an opportunity to spend more



1 time either working from home or with their families,  
2 rather than in traffic;

3 (2) Establish subcommittees within the task force to  
4 address issues specific to public sector and private  
5 sector employees;

6 (3) Develop a public awareness campaign plan;

7 (4) Study and analyze the telecommuting policies of the  
8 federal government and jurisdictions that are similar  
9 in size to Hawaii; and

10 (5) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task  
11 force.

12 (e) The task force shall submit a draft report to the  
13 legislative reference bureau no later than June 30, 2019. The  
14 legislative reference bureau shall assist the task force with  
15 finalizing the report and drafting any proposed legislation.  
16 The task force shall submit a final report of its findings and  
17 recommendations to the legislature no later than August 1, 2019.

18 SECTION 3. The telecommuting task force shall cease to  
19 exist on June 30, 2020.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Telecommuting Task Force; 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.  
(SB2397 HD1)

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