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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is in  
2 critical need of regional economic plans to provide jobs in  
3 urban and rural areas in each county. The majority of the  
4 State's residents still live and work in separate regions.  
5 According to the Commuter Adjusted Daytime Population Analysis  
6 published by the department of business, economic development,  
7 and tourism, there are only a handful of areas in the State in  
8 which a majority of the population lives and works in that same  
9 area. In particular, on Oahu, the State's most populous island,  
10 the only areas in which a majority of the population lives and  
11 works in the same area are urban Honolulu and around certain  
12 military bases. The State should therefore, to the best of its  
13 ability, seek to provide jobs and job opportunities in all urban  
14 and rural areas of the State.

15           The legislature further finds that although Hawaii has one  
16 of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, many existing  
17 jobs are lower wage jobs in the visitor industry. Moreover,



1 high housing costs and the high cost of living are outpacing  
2 wages. In addition, there are not enough job opportunities in  
3 the State for high-wage, skilled workers. Consequently, the  
4 United States Census Bureau recently found that there are  
5 thirty-seven more people per day who are moving out of Hawaii  
6 than are moving into the State.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
8 department of business, economic development, and tourism to  
9 develop regional economic plans for each county based on the  
10 boundaries of the development or community plans in each county,  
11 including working with the department of education and the  
12 University of Hawaii to provide K-12 pathways in each school to  
13 match the State's specific industry needs.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§201- Regional economic plans. (a) The department  
18 shall develop regional economic plans to provide jobs in urban  
19 and rural areas of each county based on the development or  
20 community boundaries of each respective county.



1        (b) The department shall work with the department of  
2 education and the University of Hawaii to develop and provide K-  
3 12 pathways in each school that emphasize skills necessary to  
4 meet the State's specific industry needs."

5        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;  
Regional Economic Plans

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop regional economic plans for each county to provide jobs in urban and rural areas of each county based on the development or community boundaries of each respective county. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to work with the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii to develop K-12 pathways for each school that emphasize skills necessary to meet the State's specific industry needs. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

