S.R. NO. 62

MAR 0 9 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, ALLEVIATE THE UNEMPLOYMENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS CLEAN ENERGY GOALS.

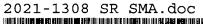
1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic 2 caused an unprecedented disruption in the State's economy that 3 resulted in the State's unemployment rate, which was one of the 4 lowest in the country, to surge to one of the highest, thereby 5 creating a need for localized and diverse workforce development 6 initiatives; and

8 WHEREAS, the current standstill in the tourism and 9 hospitality industry, the largest industry in Hawaii, due to the 10 COVID-19 pandemic represents a unique opportunity for the State 11 to build a more resilient, equitable, and diversified economy; 12 and

14 WHEREAS, to support a comprehensive economic recovery and 15 continuing growth, the State must invest in its community and 16 emerging economic sectors to avail residents educational and 17 training opportunities to succeed; and

19 WHEREAS, Hawaii has committed to meeting the energy needs of its people in a safe, reliable, economical and 20 21 environmentally sound manner, as evidenced by Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a renewable portfolio 22 standards target of one hundred percent renewable electric 23 energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, which 24 requires replacement of all cesspools by 2050; and Act 15, 25 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which established a statewide zero 26 27 emissions clean economy target to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by 2045; and 28 29

WHEREAS, after the Great Depression, the United States
implemented the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program from
1933 to 1942, as a major part of President Franklin D.



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S.R. NO. 62

Roosevelt's New Deal, which provided Americans with work related to the conservation and development of natural resources to alleviate the economic distress, which led to a greater public awareness and appreciation of the nation's natural resources and the continued need for a carefully planned, comprehensive national program for the protection and development of natural resources; and

9 WHEREAS, local efforts to reduce energy dependence and slow the threat of global warning have the potential to create 10 significant business opportunities, as evidenced by the Oakland 11 Green Job Corps, which is a program created in 2008 by the City 12 of Oakland to meet the needs of local green businesses by 13 recruiting and providing its residents with world-class job 14 training, environmental education, and employment opportunities 15 in the green sector, including but not limited to installation 16 17 of solar panels on rooftops, weatherizing of homes to save energy and lower utility bills, and construction of new green 18 19 buildings; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a statewide Jobs Corps program 21 similar to the CCC and the Oakland Green Job Corps would provide 22 23 residents of Hawaii who were economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with opportunities to receive the necessary 24 25 education and training for employment opportunities in the resiliency and green sectors, such as local agriculture, 26 27 conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool 28 conversions, and technology industries; and

30 WHEREAS, the Aloha Connects Innovation program of the 31 Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and KUPU 'Aina Corps, two 32 workforce development initiatives launched by the State with 33 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds, are 34 potential programs to integrate and build upon in establishing a 35 statewide Jobs Corps program; and

WHEREAS, the report "From Today to Tomorrow: A Talent
Roadmap to Support Economic Recovery in Hawai'i" produced in
collaboration by the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative, Hawai'i
Community Foundation, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Strada
Education Network, Jobs for the Future, Hawai'i P-20 and the
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii provides an aligned framework to



S.R. NO. 62

establish a statewide Jobs Corps program by outlining a talent 1 development strategy through expanding work-based learning, 2 retraining, credentialing programs, industry-driven solutions, 3 and partnerships; now, therefore, 4 5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, 7 8 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism are 9 requested to work together to establish a statewide Green Jobs 10 Corps program to support economic diversification, alleviate the 11 unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist the 12 State in meeting its clean energy goals; and 13 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development 15 Council and Hawaii State Energy Office are requested to advise 16 17 in the effort to establish a statewide Green Jobs Corps program; 18 and 19 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state lands classified as conservation district be considered as properties to manage and 21 steward through workforce development initiatives; and 22 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, 24 Economic Development, and Tourism and Department of Labor and 25 Industrial Relations are requested to identify public-private 26 partnerships and outline components of a statewide Green Jobs 27 Corps program that focuses on resiliency and green sector jobs 28 29 and submit a report of their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later 30 31 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session 32 of 2023; and 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Labor and 35 Industrial Relations; Director of Business, Economic 36 37 Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. 38 39 40 OFFERED BY: Denathe t. Mionluch 41

