



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 12, 2021
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HB1176
RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism offers comments on HB1176 that establishes a job corps program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

To avoid duplication of government services, DBEDT comments that statutory jurisdiction for workforce training programs has been established under §394 HRS and are within the administrative purview of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

§394-2 HRS established within the DLIR, manpower development and training programs for the various industries in the State. Further, §394-6 authorization DLIR to administer funds to develop and implement workforce training programs while §394-8 HRS provides statutory authority to DLIR to establish new industry workforce training programs.

DBEDT defers to the DLIR regarding any implementation issues and unintended consequence from this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:49:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Douglass S. Adams | Research and Development, County of Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Chair Quinlan and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

The Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawaii supports the passage of HB 1176. The development of a job corps, with the requisite training protocols, will support the re-imagining of the state economy, and importantly, help those who need to find new opportunities in the labor force in order to provide for themselves and their families.

Should the bill successfully become an Act, the County of Hawaii is encouraged by the prospects of partnering with the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism as we also engage in co-creating our economy.

The County of Hawaii enthusiastically supports the passage of HB 1176.

very respectfully,

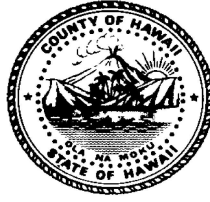
Douglass Adams

Director

Department of Research and Development

County of Hawaii

County of Hawai'i
Council District 4 -
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ
Chair: Committee on Planning, and Housing Agency
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 11, 2021

House Committee on Economic Development

Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair

Representative Daniel Holt, Vice-Chair

RE: Support for HB 1176 relating to a jobs corps program

Aloha, Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and Esteemed Members of the EDC:

I write in strong support for HB 1176, relating to establishing and allocating funds for a jobs corps program. Last week, the Hawai'i County Council's Government Operations, Relations, and Economic Development Committee Reso. 35-21, which calls for the County to create a resilient jobs corps program that puts people back to work and fosters economic development and diversification. I put the resolution forward to urge our County to work swiftly to develop a trigger ready workforce development plan that springboards off the successful Kupu Aina Corps and Aloha Connects Innovation programs and supports industries that are triple bottom line driven.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of building up our local talent and finding ways to invest in a more regenerative, resilient and innovation-based economy. Please consider ways in which the State and County of Hawai'i can work together to design, plan, and implement this program. We haven't a moment to lose.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
Hawai'i County Council, District 4



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

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LOCAL 142

The Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2021

THE HOUSE

Committee on Economic Development

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair

Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Videoconference

Friday, February 12, 2021; 9:30 a.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 1176 RELATING TO RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 1176, which establishes a state job corps program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to help address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification and appropriates funds for this purpose.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii reached historically high unemployment in 2020. Some counties in Hawaii exceeded 30 percent unemployment – shattering all previous records. Today, the economy is still struggling with tens of thousands of residents still without work and some of the jobs lost in 2020 may not return until years from now if they ever do. It is clear we need to work on economic diversification so Hawaii residents can return to work and survive in the state.

As such, we support the establishment of a job corps program. Fixing our economy is vitally important. We recommend passage of H.B. 1176.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:36:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Leong | Kupu | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, please accept the attached testimony in support of HB 1176.



House Committee on Economic Development
9:30 a.m., Friday, 12 February 2021
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

HB 1176
Establishing Job Corps Program

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

I am Jacqui Hoover and testify today as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer on behalf of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) a private member-based 501(c)3 organization incorporated in 1984. Our membership of broad socio-economic representatives is committed to provide and promote support and expertise for balanced growth in Hawai'i County in partnership with Federal, State, County, and private sector resources to ensure a thriving, resilient community, and economic development.

During the COVID-19 crisis, we have been reminded that amid system shock and adapting, while tempting to think about and seek familiarity; it is important that we focus on the way things are at present and determine how best to adapt, keep moving forward and work towards recovery.

With this focus in mind, HIEDB one of the founding members of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii (EDAH) collaborated with EDAH and Omar Sultan who conceived of the Aloha Connects Innovation (ACI) program, to develop and deploy the program to assist workers displaced by COVID to secure employment during the last quarter of 2020 and provide immediate assistance through a paycheck and benefits, as well as on-the-job and specialized training as needed.

Simultaneously, those hired were afforded the opportunity to secure new skills, experience, and networks leading to consideration and the prospect of transitioning to a different career path in more resilient innovation sectors.

Specific to Hawaii Island the ACI resulted in over seventy job placements with thirty-four host companies, and several of the employees have been retained by the companies after the program ended in December.

As HB 1176 offers a similar opportunity to provide job opportunities and career training, **Hawaii Island Economic Development Board supports HB 1176 and requests that it be amended to include jobs in the innovation sector as well as green sector.**

Respectfully Submitted,



**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development
Friday, February 12, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.
Via Videoconference**

RE: HB 1176, RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM

Chairs Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent of HB 1176**, which establishes a state job corps program help address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

To accelerate Hawaii's economic recovery, industry leaders must collaborate to support innovative solutions to grow and strengthen the workforce and ultimately Hawaii's economy. In order to guide the right tools and tailoring them to the current employment environment, the establishment of a job corps program could be another tool in the toolbox to catalyze the challenges such as development strategy through expanding work-based learning, retraining, industry-credentialing programs, and industry-driven solutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



February 11, 2021

Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1176 Relating to a Job Corp Program

Dear Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and members of the House Committee on Economic Development,

I would like to submit this letter and written testimony in support of HB 1176 Relating to a Job Corp Program as a measure aimed at stimulating and supporting our state's economic recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic.

As the president of a locally managed, 100% employee-owned company, with over 400 employees across the state, I can speak firsthand to the importance, value, and benefit of workforce development programs. As a local company, we employ members of our community in not only retail positions -- which have career paths into branch management -- but also Commercial Driver's License (CDL) vehicle operators, manufacturing jobs, professional sales positions, and administrative or office jobs (marketing, purchasing, accounting/finance, IT, human resources, and administrative support). All of these roles require training, skills and abilities which can be developed and nurtured through a job corps program.

I truly believe that many local business leaders would agree that the ability to meet our respective missions and objectives and to achieve success is reliant upon not only a trained and skilled workforce able to fill the many varying jobs and positions of our organizations, but a statewide community commitment to provide opportunity for good employment in a myriad of industries that attract and retain quality candidates.

Through the establishment of Job Corp Program, a truly collaborative public private partnership can be encouraged and fostered to support critical economic recovery and sustainability, and provide for the building and growing of a well-trained and prepared workforce to meet immediate business needs and the needs of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I strongly encourage your support for, and the passing of HB 1176.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto
President & CEO



HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:13:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tam Hunt | Think BIG (Big Island Green) | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of HB1176 on behalf of the Think BIG (Big Island Green) coalition. We have been working on a very similar bill for Hawaii County and we are excited to see a state-level effort also focused on resiliency and green sector jobs.

This bill states: "The creation of a state-run job corps program would provide residents of all ages who have been economically impacted by the pandemic with opportunities to learn new skills and increase their prospects of employment within resiliency and green sectors, including local agriculture, conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool conversion, and technology."

We wholeheartedly agree.

The amount of funding is left undefined in the bill and its success will be tied directly to the amount of funding the final bill includes. We recommend at least \$50 million as a "down payment" on a statewide green jobs program, to be spent over the two years specified in the draft bill. If the program is successful this amount should be increased for later years of the program.

We also recommend that it be called the Green Jobs Corps and Green Jobs Corps bill since the focus of the jobs should, as the body of the bill states, be in the resiliency and green sectors. By naming the bill in this manner it will prevent any potential "mission creep" in terms of what kinds of jobs will qualify for inclusion in the new statewide program.

Sincerely,

Tam Hunt, board member and co-founder, Think BIG

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:00:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hazen komraus | Kalapana Seaview Estates Community Association | Support | No |

Comments:

The original CCC was one of the most important drivers of economic, labor, and quality of life improvements in American history. The legacy of parks, trail systems, job creation, and economic recovery created by the CCC are still evident today. 90% of the parks in the state were created in a 15 year period by the CCC. Imagine if that work had continued!

Now is the time for a contemporary version of such an august and humble project. I personally have worked with Americorps and similar organizations which never really got the support they needed. I've seen firsthand the substantial work and social ramifications of such programs. They offer our citizens a chance to contribute, and to take pride in bringing our state forward, this is invaluable in creating buy-in and pride of place. These programs encourage cross-cultural and transgenerational interactions like nothing else. All of the esprit de corps, comraderie, and character that come with military service are experienced and built while improving the beauty and sustainability of our home. The low cost and humble nature of such programs allows non-professional citizens to earn the sense of pride and investment that is crucial to a healthy society. Seeing young people fresh to the job market learn from and develop repoire with retirees and specialists is deeply meaningful in creating connections and social networks within our society that strengthen our cultures and create oportunities. Exposure to nature, hard work, science, and logistical challenges prepares people for green jobs and societal contribution. Every energy company, every tourism firm is looking at a future that is different than what we see now. By bolstering the state's infrastructure, we increase opportunities for tourists and locals alike to responsibly enjoy the aina while decreasing over tourism and relieving that societal pressure. By educating and creating-boots-on-the-ground experiences we stay current and offer opportunity to our populace. Connection, pride of place, and our innate host culture can co-exist if we change the current tourism paradigm. People come to Hawaii for nature, the shopping, resteraunts, lodging, and ancilliary tourism markets are all underpinned by our climate and natural beauty. Protecting that experience, improving access to it, and finding ways to manage the tourist and resident experience is a huge issue. Every island is feeling it and constituents are clamoring to representatives to address these quality of life issues. Throw in the economic challenges and a pandemic and we're in a shake up of epic proportions. We have seen very clearly that civil

programs during such times stabilize the economy and create a strong workforce coming out of the recovery. They also instill work ethic and bring about economic equality. Heed history.

Please, please support this measure Bill (HB1176). The benefits last generations. It is a wise and timely investment and shows the people of this state that our legislators not only recognize that we need to balance our tourism with quality-of-life, but also that the state can be a technologically relevant leader while still being grounded to the aina and culture. The combination of statewide cultural identity, technological relevancy, STEM education, opportunity, and environmentalism epitomize the future that our citizens and our visitors want. The timing couldn't be better. Please act.

Sincerely,

Hazen Komraus
Kalapana Hawaii

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:44:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret L Kahoilua | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1176. As a bail bondsman and engaged citizen, my experience w/grassroots here on Hawai`i Island has led me to speak up during economy stream meetings and call for workforce development training for our residents. In addition to Job Corps playing an essential role in moving Hawai`i toward a more circular and diversified economy, I strongly believe supporting the process within our communities to discover individual purpose will be an investment bearing great return over decades to come. Everyone has skills and talents, they just need the opportunities to develop and express them. Job Corps is a key piece to the puzzle within the framework of a "fixed Hawai`i."

Kind Regards,

Margaret Kahoilua

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:15:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yoon Kean Wong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I stand in support of bill HB1176. Between the economic crisis induced by COVID-19; the high cost of energy in Hawai'i; the impacts to our state, country and world of emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gasses; the desire for economic diversification; and the need to preserve our local environment for future generations, HB1176 will lay an important foundation for Hawaii's future, and demonstrate global leadership in a time when such displays of character supporting the common good are so sorely needed.

Mahalo,

Kean Wong

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:18:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Noel Morin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and members of the Committee on Economic Development,

I am in strong support of **HB1176**. The economic challenges brought about by the pandemic will reverberate through our economy long after the COVID-19 ends. We have the opportunity to mitigate these challenges while enabling a more sustainable economy. An opportunity to improve our environment and encourage economic diversification while creating meaningful jobs for our people.

As a member of a number of sustainability groups on Hawaii Island, I appreciate well the opportunities that a Job Corps Program can bring in the areas of the economy, social equity, and environment.

Thank you for supporting **HB1176**.

Noel Morin

Board Member

Think BIG - thinkbighawaii.org

Testimony - HB 1176
Relating to a Green Job Corps program
Economic Development Committee hearing
February 12, 2021

I am writing in support of a Green Job Corps as described in HB 1176 but with the proviso that it be situated in the department responsible for sustainability and conservation, the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

First, the need: An entire young generation of Hawai'i's people is acutely at risk. In 2020, we produced 14,000 high school graduates and 5,000 college graduates for a job market with historically high unemployment. From study of previous disasters, we know that damaging effects run on many years and even lifetimes: *"...almost half of the loss in employment persists until the affected workers retire. Both the polio pandemic and the Great Recession left young adults permanently scarred. The startling reality spawned by COVID-19 is that the current crisis in Hawai'i is much larger than the 2007-2009 economic crisis and is on track to generate much more damaging and pervasive scarring of Hawai'i's young adults."* (Dr. Sumner La Croix, and Dr. James Mak, University of Economic Research Organization).

At the same time, the natural resources that sustain us are threatened and suffering degradation from many directions. One statistic: DLNR is responsible for much of our entire environment but gets less than 1% of the State budget.

Our vision of a Green Job Corps is similar to the goals of the bill and the goals of groups, such as KUMU, KUA, and Aloha `Aina, who every day do hard work of this sort in the field:

- Upland forest conservation and renewal
- Watershed recharge
- Streambed cleanup
- Point-source and brown-water pollution cleanup
- Sustainable, diversified agriculture
- Kalo cultivation
- Regulation of tourist-intensive nature resources
- Restoration of historic and cultural sites
- Protection and cleanup of beaches and reefs

- Aquaculture
- Nearshore fisheries
- Fishpond restoration

All these are DLNR responsibilities and areas of familiarity and expertise. In fact, a Hawaii Youth Corps in DLNR already exists on the books and has existed for two decades as a function of HRS-Ch 193. With due respect to DBEDT for its contracted two-month CARES-financed project of last year, the dynamic and longterm possibilities lie more logically with a department that worries every day about the environmental and sustainability work at hand.

Accordingly, I hope you will work with the environmental and water/lands committees to formulate the best possible solution. It is an opportunity to snatch something visionary from the twin crises of pandemic and widespread unemployment.

Thank you.

Tom Coffman

Board Member, Hawai'i Thousand Friends

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:32:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rachel Solemsaas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I extend my support to the passing of this bill. While we continue our efforts to ensure the health and safety of our communities with this pandemic, it is never too early to plan for economic recovery. The proposed bill will provide us with the capacity to build workforce opportunities to members of our community impacted by this pandemic recession.

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:31:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Claire Muskopf | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The current economic situation is a significant catastrophe.

We need to find ways to get our workforce back to work ASAP and tourism cannot be the only answer. If we are supporting our workforce through this difficult time lets collaborate with pilot programs already in place and respond to needs in the community.

Conservation Corp is an awesome program and anything that does more of that sounds like a great investment in sustainable, regenerative future of Hawai`i.

HB-1176

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 9:02:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John N. Kittinger | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 1176 RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM.