
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO COLLECT DATA RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE IN HAWAII, EVALUATE THE COLLECTED DATA, AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

1 WHEREAS, information technology has become a significant
2 component of Hawaii's economy that propels the prosperity of the
3 State as an economic driver that covers a wide range of
4 industries; and
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6 WHEREAS, according to the "Hawai'i IT Workforce Needs
7 Report" published in November 2021 by SMS Research and Marketing
8 Services, Inc., the information technology industry contributed
9 \$2,037,000,000 or 2.2 percent to Hawaii's total nominal gross
10 domestic product (GDP) in 2018; and
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12 WHEREAS, despite not contributing as much nominal GDP as
13 the real estate, accommodations, and retail industries, the
14 information technology industry had the highest annual real GDP
15 growth rate among all sectors between 2001 and 2018 at 4.9
16 percent; and
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18 WHEREAS, in 2020, the information technology sector in
19 Hawaii encompassed 12,740 jobs; 3,834 hires; and 894 average
20 annual job openings; and
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22 WHEREAS, the average hourly wage for Hawaii's technology
23 industry is \$39.92, which is more than double the \$15.53
24 survival-level hourly wage for individuals in the State as
25 reported in the 2020 ALICE Report for Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics data
 2 shows that the projected increase in computer and technology
 3 occupations between 2020 to 2030 is thirteen percent nationally;
 4 however, the projected employment increase in the computer and
 5 mathematics occupation group in Hawaii between 2018 and 2028 is
 6 limited to seven percent; and

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 8 WHEREAS, the demand for employees in the information
 9 technology field in Hawaii exceeds the number of available
 10 individuals seeking jobs in the industry; and

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 12 WHEREAS, ensuring that the State's workforce has an
 13 adequate and efficient education in information technology is
 14 essential for the continued growth of Hawaii's economy; and

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 16 WHEREAS, to develop a thriving information technology
 17 workforce, the State must improve various aspects of its
 18 workforce development programs; and

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 20 WHEREAS, one of the fundamental components of building a
 21 robust qualified workforce is the collection of relevant data
 22 that will enable better evaluation of available programs and
 23 contribute to better planning for the future; now, therefore,

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 25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
 27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 28 Labor and Industrial Relations, in collaboration with the
 29 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and
 30 University of Hawaii, is requested to:

- 31
 32 (1) Collect data relating to the development of an
 33 information technology workforce in Hawaii, which
 34 should include but not be limited to:
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 36 (A) Courses, trainings, and programs currently being
 37 offered in Hawaii relating to information
 38 technology;
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 40 (B) Information technology internship programs
 41 offered by public and private organizations in
 42 Hawaii;



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- (C) Certifications and licenses relating to information technology issued in Hawaii, including:
 - (i) The category or type of certifications and licenses; and
 - (ii) The number of certificates and licenses issued each year by category or type;
- (D) Current information on the individuals who completed the courses, training, or programs, or obtained the certificates or licenses, including:
 - (i) Their occupation;
 - (ii) The industry they work in; and
 - (iii) The state or county in which they currently reside; and
- (E) Average compensation of technology-related jobs in the private and public sectors;
- (2) Evaluate the collected data and develop a strategy to provide better information technology training to individuals and retain them in Hawaii to build a flourishing information technology workforce in Hawaii; and
- (3) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and President of the University of Hawaii.

