
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE STATE'S CURRENT
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, such as New York and
2 California, Hawaii lacks adequate advocacy from the executive
3 branch for workforce development; and

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5 WHEREAS, tourism and retail, the State's most dominant
6 economic sectors, provide relatively low wages for workers, most
7 of whom are of Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and Filipino
8 heritage; and

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10 WHEREAS, work-based learning and development programs allow
11 youth and adults to explore new opportunities, build skills, and
12 transition into new career pathways; and

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14 WHEREAS, providing workforce development and work-based
15 learning programs to train low wage workers for higher wage
16 sectors will improve their economic status and reduce the racial
17 wealth gap; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
22 Labor and Industrial Relations and the Workforce Development
23 Council is requested to establish a task force to conduct a
24 comprehensive study of the State's current education and
25 workforce development programs; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development
28 Council is requested to select the members of the task force;
29 and

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- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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3 (1) Identify strategies to locate industries experiencing
4 worker shortage;
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6 (2) Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and
7 retention of workers in industries experiencing worker
8 shortage;
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10 (3) Identify strategies to expand experiential, work-based
11 learning opportunities for adults and youth in the
12 target populations;
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14 (4) Identify strategies for closing the digital divide for
15 disconnected State residents to create new
16 opportunities for participation in society and the
17 economy;
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19 (5) Study the State's existing education and workplace
20 development programs and identify the programs that
21 provide resources to the target populations;
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23 (6) Study the pathways for obtaining certain in-demand
24 occupational licenses;
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26 (7) Ensure that English language learners have access to
27 work-based learning, job training, and employment
28 opportunities and the support they need for success in
29 employment;
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31 (8) Identify strategies to ensure programs are coordinated
32 in a manner that maximizes participation for employers
33 and employees;
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35 (9) Provide recommendations on:
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37 (A) How to identify, enhance, and expand effective
38 workforce development programs to facilitate the
39 training and employment of historically untapped
40 workforce populations in specific fields; and
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