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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is the most  
2 isolated population center in the world, situated approximately  
3 two thousand four hundred miles from the closest landmass, the  
4 mainland United States. Given this geographical isolation,  
5 efficient transportation is critical for the survival of the  
6 State's population and tourism industry. Commercial driver's  
7 license holders play a pivotal role in moving shipments from  
8 docks and airports to shelves, as storage space is limited  
9 within the State.

10           The legislature further finds that Hawaii grapples with a  
11 shortage of commercial drivers, a challenge mirrored on the  
12 continental United States. The nationwide deficit of truck  
13 drivers is more than eighty thousand. If current trends  
14 persist, the deficit is projected to double to one hundred sixty  
15 thousand by 2030.

16           The legislature also finds that this scarcity in the number  
17 of commercial drivers directly impacts the State's education  
18 system, for which more than two hundred additional commercial



1 drivers are required to fully cover school bus routes statewide,  
2 forcing some students to ride public transit. To address this  
3 growing crisis, it is imperative to develop and implement a  
4 strategic plan that encourages employment in the commercial  
5 driver's field to ensure the State's economic and social  
6 well-being.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a working  
8 group within the department of transportation to address the  
9 State's current and future needs for commercial driver's license  
10 holders.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a commercial drivers  
12 workforce working group within the department of transportation.  
13 The working group shall:

- 14 (1) Engage the public and private sectors to increase  
15 awareness of the ground transportation industry and  
16 the industry's workforce needs; and  
17 (2) Collaborate with key stakeholders to identify and  
18 develop possible career paths for qualified commercial  
19 drivers, prioritizing filling vacancies within the  
20 department of education, with the ultimate goal of



1 filling vacancies within the private and public  
2 sectors.

3 (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
4 members:

5 (1) The director of transportation, or the director's  
6 designee, who shall serve as the co-chair of the  
7 working group;

8 (2) One member from the department of education workforce  
9 development branch, who shall serve as the co-chair of  
10 the working group;

11 (3) A campus coordinator from the office of workforce  
12 development at the university of Hawaii community  
13 colleges who is in charge of a workforce development  
14 program that includes commercial driver's license  
15 training;

16 (4) One member from the department of labor and industrial  
17 relations workforce development council;

18 (5) One member from each county's commercial driver's  
19 licensing office; and

20 (6) One member from each county's workforce development  
21 board.



1 (c) The director of transportation shall invite  
2 representatives from the following organizations to serve as  
3 members of the working group:

4 (1) Two members representing the Hawaii Transportation  
5 Association;

6 (2) One member representing the labor union representing  
7 commercial driver's license holders; and

8 (3) One member representing a local non-profit  
9 organization currently providing commercial driver's  
10 license training.

11 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its  
12 findings and recommendations to address the shortage of  
13 commercial drivers in the State, including any proposed  
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

16 (e) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,  
17 2025.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

DOT; Workforce Development; Commercial Drivers; Working Group;  
Report

**Description:**

Establishes a commercial drivers workforce working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of commercial drivers in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature. (CD1)

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