

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO  
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE BOILER AND ELEVATOR  
INSPECTION BRANCH TO INCREASE PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND  
RETENTION.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Resources Development  
2 provides timely and responsive leadership, resources, and  
3 services to fully support the state executive branch in the  
4 recruitment, management, and retention of a high-performing  
5 workforce; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Resources Development's  
8 mission is to recruit and retain "the best and the brightest"  
9 employees so the state government may deliver efficient and  
10 effective services to the public; and  
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12 WHEREAS, among those essential services is the Department  
13 of Labor and Industrial Relations' oversight and inspection of  
14 pressure retaining items, such as boilers, pressure vessels,  
15 pressure systems, amusement rides, elevators, and kindred  
16 equipment, to ensure their safe operation, which is conducted by  
17 the Department's Boiler and Elevator Inspection Branch of the  
18 Occupational Safety and Health Division; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, sufficient and qualified staffing for the Boiler  
21 and Elevator Inspection Branch is therefore essential to the  
22 safe operation of the equipment the Branch regulates and, by  
23 extension, public safety; and  
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25 WHEREAS, however, the Branch is currently staffed by only  
26 nineteen authorized positions following a 2021 cut to their  
27 ranks; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, this limited workforce has contributed to the  
30 growing backlog of inspections, which are required annually for  
31 most elevators; and  
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33 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Labor and  
34 Industrial Relations, of the 10,057 elevators that required



1 inspection in 2024, only 2,619 were serviced, creating a backlog  
2 of 7,438, or nearly seventy-four percent; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, backlogs cause public safety concerns for existing  
5 building inventory and costly delays for economically important  
6 new construction projects; and  
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8 WHEREAS, salary scales may also require adjustment to  
9 expand the workforce and address the backlog, as an entry-level  
10 Elevator Inspector I position within the Branch pays \$20,000 to  
11 \$40,000 less annually than its private sector counterpart; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, a comparative analysis of the operations and  
14 staffing of the State's Boiler and Elevator Inspection Branch  
15 and similar regulatory branches in other states may offer  
16 valuable insights for resolving this pay gap and improving the  
17 efficacy of the Branch; and  
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19 WHEREAS, given the proliferation of boilers and elevators  
20 in the State and the specialized knowledge required for their  
21 safe upkeep, it is in the best interest of the State to ensure  
22 the Boiler and Elevator Inspection Branch is operating at its  
23 optimal capacity; now, therefore,  
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
27 that the Department of Human Resources Development is requested  
28 to conduct a comprehensive review of the Boiler and Elevator  
29 Inspection Branch to increase personnel recruitment and  
30 retention; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
33 Resources Development is requested to include in its  
34 comprehensive review a comparative analysis of similar  
35 regulatory branches in other states, including California,  
36 Washington, Oregon, and Nevada, to identify best practices and  
37 potential areas for improvement; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive review is  
40 requested to include, but not be limited to, an assessment of  
41 the following within the Boiler and Elevator Inspection Branch:  
42

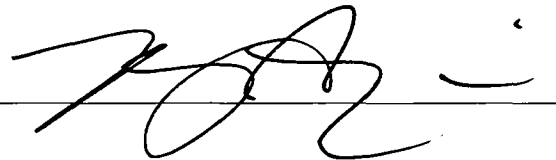


- (1) The current organizational composition and its effectiveness in meeting its responsibilities;
- (2) The current personnel requirements, including the number of inspectors, their qualifications, and their workloads;
- (3) The current salary scales for inspectors and other personnel and the competitiveness of these salary scales compared to similar positions in other states and the in-state private sector;
- (4) The identification of any potential deficiencies in the current organizational composition, classifications, personnel requirements, or salary scales; and
- (5) Recommendations for human resources-related improvements to enhance efficiency and efficacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Resources Development is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Resources Development, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, and Chief Boiler Inspector of the Boiler and Elevator Inspection Branch.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. A. ...', is written over a horizontal line.