A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT.

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

| 1 | SECTION 1. The legislature finds that immediate, speedy |
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| 2 | action must be taken to reduce unemployment in this State. The |
| 3 | present decline in the health of the state and national |
| 4 | economies and the high rates of unemployment that will accompany |
| 5 | this decline will cause considerable hardship among the |
| 6 | residents of the State. The legislature further finds it is |
| 7 | therefore prudent at this time to take steps to alleviate the |
| 8 | effects of a high rate of unemployment through the development |
| 9 | of a state unemployment program aimed at creating one hundred |
| 10 | thousand jobs for the unemployed and underemployed. The purpose |
| 11 | of this Act is to: |
| 12 | (1) Enable unemployed and underemployed persons with |
| 13 | employment in needed public service jobs, and, |
| 14 | whenever feasible, related training and manpower |
| 15 | services, to move into employment or training |
| 16 | supported under this chapter; and |

- 1 (2) Provide subsidies for certain private employers to 2 participate in the employment programs involving the 3 training and hiring of unemployed persons. SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by 4 5 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read 6 as follows: 7 "CHAPTER 8 STATE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM 9 PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS 10 -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the 11 context clearly requires otherwise: 12 "Department" means the department of labor and industrial 13 relations. 14 "Director" means the director of labor and industrial 15 relations. 16 "Unemployed person" means a person who is without a job and 17 is able, available, and seeking full-time employment. 18 -2 Authority. (a) The director may create and S 19 administer a statewide state-funded subsidized public service 20 employment program. In carrying out the program, the director 21 shall accord priority to individuals to be hired in the 22 following order:
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H.B. NO. 2876

| Ĺ | (1) | Unemployed persons who have been unemployed for more |
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| 2 | | than fifteen weeks, including those who have exhausted |
| 3 | | their unemployment benefits: |

- (2) All other unemployed persons, who are unemployment insurance claimants including those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits;
- 7 (3) All other unemployed persons, whether or not they are
 8 unemployment insurance claimants, who are certified by
 9 the director as recipients of state public assistance
 10 under chapter 346; and
- (4) All other unemployed persons, whether or not they areunemployment insurance claimants.
- (b) Persons employed in public service jobs under thischapter shall not be paid wages below the state minimum wage.
- (c) Persons under subsection (b) shall not be considered state employees and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to state employment, including those regarding hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and state employee benefits.
- (d) For purposes of chapter 386, persons under subsection(b) shall be deemed employees of the State within the meaning of

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- 1 the term "employee" as defined in section 386-1, and the
- 2 provisions of that chapter shall apply.
- 3 § -3 Relationship of program under this part to other
- 4 state programs. The program under this part is a state-funded
- 5 program. Accordingly, the director shall not be required to
- 6 conform this program with that of other public service
- 7 employment programs.
- 8 The director, immediately upon the effective date of this
- 9 chapter, shall implement this part. The director shall
- 10 coordinate the activities with any other state or county
- 11 activities relating to public service employment, including but
- 12 not limited to programs under chapters, 202, 394, and 394B, and
- 13 sections 346-71 and 346-101.
- 14 § -4 Rules. The director shall adopt rules pursuant to
- 15 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this chapter.
- 16 § -5 Reports. The director shall report on the
- 17 progress of this chapter to the legislature annually.
- 18 PART II. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT
- 19 § -11 State subsidy for certain employers. Any
- 20 employer, whether profit-making or nonprofit making, who agrees
- 21 to participate in an employment program to train and permanently



- 1 hire unemployed persons, shall be entitled to a state subsidy in
- 2 accordance with this part and rules as may be necessary.
- 3 § -12 Nature of subsidy. The subsidy shall be to defray
- 4 extra costs of providing employment and a program of training
- 5 and support services. It may be used for on-the-job training
- 6 and counseling, job orientation, job-related education,
- 7 instruction in English as a second language, medical and dental
- 8 services, transportation expenses, a portion of wages, and other
- 9 costs related to the employment.
- 10 All subsidies shall be made directly to the employer by the
- 11 director. The amounts of the subsidies shall be determined by
- 12 the director in accordance with guidelines adopted by the
- 13 director, and all subsidies shall be incorporated into contracts
- 14 entered into between the director and the participating
- 15 employers.
- 16 § -13 Limitations. No subsidy shall exceed \$
- 17 for one permanent job position. The maximum subsidy allowed to
- 18 any one employer shall be \$ or an amount not to exceed
- 19 twenty-five per cent of any one employer's workforce, whichever
- 20 is the lesser amount, except under exceptional circumstances as
- 21 determined by the director. The training subsidy for a given
- 22 position shall not exceed twenty weeks.

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| 1 | PART III. STATE LOANS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT |
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| 2 | § -21 State loans for certain private employers. Any |
| 3 | private employer, whether profit or nonprofit, who agrees to |
| 4 | participate in an employment program to train and permanently |
| 5 | hire unemployed persons shall be entitled to qualify for state |
| 6 | low-interest loans for purposes described in this part. |
| 7 | § -22 Nature of loans. The employer who qualifies shall |
| 8 | be entitled to a loan of not more than \$ for each |
| 9 | unemployed person that the employer immediately hires; provided |
| 10 | that the persons shall be employed at least one year or for the |
| 11 | term of the loan, whichever is longer. |
| 12 | The loan shall be for five years maximum, at the rate of |
| 13 | per cent interest a year, and shall be payable in equal |
| 14 | monthly installments of principal and interest. |
| 15 | The loan shall be for purposes directly related to the |
| 16 | maintenance or expansion of the employer's business activity. |
| 17 | Any provision to the contrary notwithstanding, the director |
| 18 | shall have full authority and discretion to consider, approve, |
| 19 | or disapprove any loan application and impose restrictions on |
| 20 | any loan made pursuant to this part. Under no circumstances |
| 21 | shall any one employer be granted loans exceeding \$." |

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| 1 | SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general |
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| 2 | revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so |
| 3 | much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to |
| 4 | implement section 2 of this Act by creating up to jobs |
| 5 | for the unemployed and underemployed. |
| 6 | The sum appropriated shall be expended by the director of |
| 7 | labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act. |
| 8 | SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010. |
| 9 |) in |

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Report Title:

State Comprehensive Employment Training Program

Description:

Creates the State Comprehensive Employment Training Program (SCET) providing subsidized employment for work with a public purpose. Appropriates funds.

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