

JAN 23 2015

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 the department of
2 labor and industrial relations reports figures on the total
3 unemployed population as a percentage of civilian labor force,
4 known as U-3, which is used as the official unemployment rate
5 for the State. There are, however, several additional
6 alternative measures of labor utilization, U-6 being the most
7 comprehensive because it includes the total unemployed, plus all
8 marginally attached workers, plus the total employed part-time
9 for economic reasons, as a percentage of the civilian labor
10 force plus all marginally attached workers. While the
11 department does report U-6 figures, these figures are often in
12 the technical notes or footnotes.

13 The legislature further finds that to allow policy makers
14 and analysts to address issues related to unemployment in the
15 State, the most comprehensive figures and statistics need to be
16 easily accessible.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 labor and industrial relations to report U-6 figures alongside
3 U-3 figures in the main text of reports and press releases
4 related to the State's unemployment rate.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§371- Reporting of unemployment rate. (a) No later
9 than January 1, 2016, the department of labor and industrial
10 relations shall report U-6 figures alongside U-3 figures in the
11 main text of reports and press releases related to the State's
12 unemployment rate.

13 (b) For the purposes of this section:

14 "Persons marginally attached to the labor force" means
15 persons who currently are neither working nor looking for work
16 but indicate that they want and are available for a job and have
17 looked for work sometime in the past twelve months.

18 "U-3" means the total unemployed as a percentage of the
19 civilian labor force.

20 "U-6" means the total unemployed plus all persons
21 marginally attached to the labor force plus total employed part



1 time for economic reasons, as a percentage of the civilian labor
2 force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 351

Report Title:

Unemployment; Reporting; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Description:

Requires the department of labor and industrial relations to report U-6 figures alongside U-3 figures when reporting on the State's unemployment rate.

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