
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, prior to the
2 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Hawaii had one of
3 the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. The COVID-19
4 pandemic has placed tens of thousands of Hawaii residents out of
5 work, and the current state unemployment rate is among the
6 nation's highest. The department of labor and industrial
7 relations reported that the State's seasonally adjusted
8 unemployment rate, which was 2.7 per cent in September 2019,
9 compared to the national rate of 3.5 per cent, surged to 15.1
10 per cent in September 2020, compared to the national rate of 7.9
11 per cent. In addition, tourism, the State's largest industry,
12 has dropped considerably because of the COVID-19 pandemic,
13 providing a unique opportunity for the State to build a more
14 resilient, equitable, and diversified economy. The effects of
15 the COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the need for increased
16 and diverse workforce development initiatives in the State.



1 The legislature further finds that models exist for the
2 creation of such initiatives to support the State's ailing
3 workforce. The Civilian Conservation Corps program that was
4 implemented as a major part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's
5 New Deal after the Great Depression was a federal work relief
6 program that helped employ Americans on conservation projects,
7 alleviated economic distress, and supported the protection and
8 responsible development of natural resources and agricultural
9 land use. The federal Job Corps program is a no-cost education
10 and career technical training program administered by the United
11 States Department of Labor that helps young people ages sixteen
12 to twenty-four improve the quality of their lives through career
13 technical and academic training. The Hawaii Job Corps Center
14 supports the federal Job Corps program's mission to teach
15 eligible young people the skills they need to become employable
16 and independent, place them in meaningful jobs, or further their
17 education.

18 The legislature recognizes that the State has committed to
19 meeting the energy needs of its people in a safe, reliable,
20 economical and environmentally sound manner, as evidenced by Act
21 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a renewable



1 portfolio standards target of one hundred percent renewable
2 electric energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017,
3 which requires replacement of all cesspools by 2050; and Act 15,
4 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which established a statewide zero
5 emissions clean economy target to sequester more atmospheric
6 carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by 2045. The
7 legislature finds that, to support a comprehensive economic
8 recovery, the State must invest in its community and emerging
9 economic sectors and provide its residents with the educational
10 and training opportunities to succeed. The creation of a state-
11 administered green job corps program would provide Hawaii
12 residents who were economically impacted by the COVID-19
13 pandemic with opportunities to learn new skills and increase
14 their prospects of employment within the resiliency and green
15 sectors, including local agriculture, conservation, climate
16 adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool conversion, and
17 technology industries.

18 The legislature also finds that the Aloha Connects
19 Innovation program of the Economic Development Alliance of
20 Hawaii and Kupu 'Āina Corps, two workforce development
21 initiatives launched by the State with federal Coronavirus Aid,



1 Relief, and Economic Security Act funds are potential programs
 2 to integrate and build upon in establishing a state-administered
 3 green job corps program. The State can also capitalize on the
 4 report titled "From Today to Tomorrow: A Talent Roadmap to
 5 Support Economic Recovery" produced by the Hawaii Executive
 6 Collaborative, which provides a framework to establish a state-
 7 administered green job corps program by outlining a talent
 8 development strategy through expansion of work-based learning,
 9 retraining, credentialing programs, industry-driven solutions,
 10 and partnerships.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Establish a green job youth corps program within the
- 13 department of land and natural resources to help
- 14 address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19
- 15 pandemic and support economic diversification with a
- 16 focus on resiliency and green sector industries; and
- 17 (2) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

18 SECTION 2. Section 193-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 "[+] §193-32 [>] **Administration.** To carry out the program
 21 authorized by this part, the governor may:



- 1 (1) Enter into an agreement or agreements, or designate
2 the department of land and natural resources, or any
3 other state department or departments as the state
4 agency or agencies to enter into an agreement or
5 agreements, with the proper authorities of the United
6 States;
- 7 (2) Designate the department of land and natural
8 resources, or any state department or departments to
9 design programs to provide healthful outdoor training
10 and employment for young persons and to advance the
11 conservation, development, and management of natural
12 resources and recreational areas, in accordance with
13 the applicable federal law; provided that the
14 designated department or departments may also adopt
15 appropriate rules under chapter 91 to carry out the
16 programs so designed; [~~and~~]
- 17 (3) Designate the department of land natural resources to
18 administer or enter into an agreement or agreements
19 for the administration of a green jobs youth corps
20 program that provides temporary work and training
21 opportunities in one or more of the following fields:



1 natural resource management, agriculture,
2 conservation, renewable energy, or other
3 sustainability professions. The program shall
4 prioritize work and training opportunities for young
5 adults who are thirty years of age or younger and
6 economic diversification; provided that the department
7 of land natural resources shall partner with
8 organizations that have experience providing similar
9 programming in the state; and

10 (4) Defray one-half of all costs incurred with respect to
11 the programs or any other proportion of the costs of
12 the programs, which may be required by the applicable
13 laws of the United States, out of any moneys
14 appropriated to the department or departments
15 designated to participate in the programs, without
16 regard to the original purpose of the appropriations."

17 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
18 shall submit a report to the legislature on its progress in
19 implementing the requirements of this Act no later than twenty
20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2022-2023 for the purposes of this Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Green Job Youth Corps Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) a green job youth corps program that provides temporary work and training opportunities in the resiliency and green sector industries to help address the unemployment impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and support economic diversification. Allows the governor to designate the DLNR to administer or enter into agreements for the administration of the program. Appropriates funds to be expended by the DLNR for this purpose. Requires the DLNR to report to the legislature on its progress before the regular session of 2022. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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