
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
21 Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a



1 renewable portfolio standards target of one hundred per cent
2 renewable electric energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of
3 Hawaii 2017, which requires replacement of all cesspools by
4 2050; and Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which established
5 a statewide zero emissions clean economy target to sequester
6 more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by
7 2045. The legislature finds that, to support a comprehensive
8 economic recovery, the State must invest in its community and
9 emerging economic sectors and provide its residents with the
10 educational and training opportunities to succeed. The creation
11 of a state-administered green job corps program would provide
12 Hawaii 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 in Hawai'i" produced by the Hawaii
 6 Executive Collaborative, which provides a framework to establish
 7 a state-administered green job corps program by outlining a
 8 talent development strategy through expansion of work-based
 9 learning, retraining, credentialing programs, industry-driven
 10 solutions, 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 "[~~f~~]**§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 and natural resources
18 to 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 and natural resources shall partner with
8 organizations that have experience providing similar
9 programming in the state; and

10 ~~(3)~~ (4) Defray one-half of all costs incurred with
11 respect to the programs or any other proportion of the
12 costs of the programs, which may be required by the
13 applicable laws of the United States, out of any
14 moneys 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; DLNR; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and support economic diversification. Allows the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer or enter into agreements for the administration of the program. Appropriates funds. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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