
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A JOB CORPS PROGRAM TO HELP ADDRESS
UNEMPLOYMENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SUPPORT
ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION.

1 WHEREAS, the federal Job Corps program is a no-cost
2 education and career technical training program administered by
3 the United States Department of Labor that helps young people
4 ages sixteen to twenty-four improve the quality of their lives
5 through career technical and academic training; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Job Corps Center supports the Job Corps
8 program's mission to teach eligible young people the skills they
9 need to become employable and independent and place them in
10 meaningful jobs or further their education; and
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12 WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii had one of
13 the lowest unemployment rates in the nation; and
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15 WHEREAS, the pandemic has placed tens of thousands of
16 residents out of work and Hawaii now has among the nation's
17 highest rates of unemployment; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
20 reported that in September 2019, Hawaii had a seasonally
21 adjusted unemployment rate of 2.7 percent, compared to a
22 national unemployment rate of 3.5 percent, and a year later, in
23 September 2020, Hawaii's unemployment rate was 15.1 percent,
24 compared to a national unemployment rate of 7.9 percent; and
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26 WHEREAS, these figures highlight the need for increased and
27 diverse workforce development initiatives; and
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29 WHEREAS, tourism, the State's largest industry, has dropped
30 considerably because of the pandemic, providing a unique



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1 opportunity to build a more resilient, equitable, and
2 diversified economy; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Civilian Conservation Corps established after
5 the Great Depression was a federal work relief program to help
6 employ Americans on conservation projects, alleviate economic
7 distress, and support the protection and responsible development
8 of natural resources and agricultural use; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State is mandated to be powered by one hundred
11 percent renewable energy and to sequester more carbon than the
12 State emits by 2045; and

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14 WHEREAS, the State is also mandated to transition cesspools
15 to septic systems by 2050; and

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17 WHEREAS, to support a comprehensive economic recovery, the
18 State must invest in our community and emerging economic sectors
19 and provide residents with the education and training
20 opportunities needed to succeed; and

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22 WHEREAS, the creation of a state-run job corps program
23 would provide residents of all ages who have been economically
24 impacted by the pandemic with opportunities to learn new skills
25 and increase their prospects of employment within resiliency and
26 green sectors, including local agriculture, conservation,
27 climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool conversion, and
28 technology; and

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30 WHEREAS, Aloha Connects Innovation and Kupu 'Āina Corps are
31 two workforce development initiatives launched by the State with
32 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
33 funds, and serve as examples the State can integrate and build
34 upon in establishing its own job corps program; and

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36 WHEREAS, "From Today to Tomorrow: A Talent Roadmap to
37 Support Economic Recovery" by the Hawaii Executive
38 Collaborative, provides a framework to establish a job corps
39 program by outlining a talent development strategy through
40 expanding work-based learning, retraining, credentialing



1 programs, industry-driven solutions, and partnerships; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2021, that the Department of Business, Economic Development,
7 and Tourism is urged to establish a job corps program to help
8 address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and
9 support economic diversification; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
12 Economic Development, and Tourism consult with and seek advice
13 from the Workforce Development Council in its efforts to
14 establish the program; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
17 Economic Development, and Tourism identify public-private
18 partnerships and outline components of a job corps program that
19 focuses on resiliency and green sector jobs; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
22 Economic Development, and Tourism report to the Legislature no
23 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2022
24 Regular Session on the Department's recommendations on funding
25 sources and program structure for the job corps program; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
29 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the Workforce
30 Development Council.

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OFFERED BY: SG

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