
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 COVID-19 pandemic, providing a



1 unique 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 the 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 supported by the State
32 with 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 Collaborative
38 provides a framework to establish a job corps program by
39 outlining a talent development strategy through expanding work-
40 based learning, retraining, credentialing programs, industry-
41 driven solutions, and partnerships; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, that the Department of Business, Economic Development,
4 and Tourism is urged to establish a job corps program to help
5 address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and
6 support economic diversification; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
9 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to consult with
10 and seek advice from the Workforce Development Council in its
11 efforts to establish the program; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
14 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to identify
15 public-private partnerships and outline components of a job
16 corps program that focuses on resiliency and green sector jobs;
17 and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
20 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to report to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the 2022 Regular Session on the Department's recommendations on
23 funding sources and program structure for the job corps program;
24 and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
28 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the Workforce
29 Development Council.

