MAR 1 2 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO ESTABLISH A REGISTRY OF CREATIVE ARTIST GIG WORKERS TO ENABLE THE WORKERS TO ACCESS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, freelancers, independent contractors, gig workers, and other self-employed individuals who are out of work typically would not qualify for regular unemployment benefits; and

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WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers have been afforded the opportunity to apply for relief through a new program established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act called the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; and

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WHEREAS, eligibility for weekly unemployment benefits through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program depends on a number of factors, one of which includes work history; and

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WHEREAS, creative artist gig workers may not have the necessary work history requirements to qualify for relief through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is urged to establish a registry of creative artist gig workers to enable the workers to access unemployment benefits through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of this registry, a "creative artist gig worker" is a person who creates art in any medium and receives compensation on a per piece, per project, or per event basis for that art; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the registry allow creative 2 artist gig workers to use their general excise tax license and related filings to establish eligibility for unemployment benefits; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Taxation is requested to collaborate with the Department of Labor and 8 Industrial Relations in the establishment of a registry of creative artist gig workers; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, and Director of Taxation.

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