

MAR 09 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, ALLEVIATE THE UNEMPLOYMENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS CLEAN ENERGY GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
2 caused an unprecedented disruption in the State's economy that
3 resulted in the State's unemployment rate, which was one of the
4 lowest in the country, to surge to one of the highest, thereby
5 creating a need for localized and diverse workforce development
6 initiatives; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the current standstill in the tourism and
9 hospitality industry, the largest industry in Hawaii, due to the
10 COVID-19 pandemic represents a unique opportunity for the State
11 to build a more resilient, equitable, and diversified economy;
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, to support a comprehensive economic recovery and
15 continuing growth, the State must invest in its community and
16 emerging economic sectors to avail residents educational and
17 training opportunities to succeed; and

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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii has committed to meeting the energy needs
20 of its people in a safe, reliable, economical and
21 environmentally sound manner, as evidenced by Act 97, Session
22 Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a renewable portfolio
23 standards target of one hundred percent renewable electric
24 energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, which
25 requires replacement of all cesspools by 2050; and Act 15,
26 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which established a statewide zero
27 emissions clean economy target to sequester more atmospheric
28 carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by 2045; and

29
30 WHEREAS, after the Great Depression, the United States
31 implemented the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program from
32 1933 to 1942, as a major part of President Franklin D.



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1 Roosevelt's New Deal, which provided Americans with work related
2 to the conservation and development of natural resources to
3 alleviate the economic distress, which led to a greater public
4 awareness and appreciation of the nation's natural resources and
5 the continued need for a carefully planned, comprehensive
6 national program for the protection and development of natural
7 resources; and

8
9 WHEREAS, local efforts to reduce energy dependence and slow
10 the threat of global warming have the potential to create
11 significant business opportunities, as evidenced by the Oakland
12 Green Job Corps, which is a program created in 2008 by the City
13 of Oakland to meet the needs of local green businesses by
14 recruiting and providing its residents with world-class job
15 training, environmental education, and employment opportunities
16 in the green sector, including but not limited to installation
17 of solar panels on rooftops, weatherizing of homes to save
18 energy and lower utility bills, and construction of new green
19 buildings; and

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21 WHEREAS, the creation of a statewide Jobs Corps program
22 similar to the CCC and the Oakland Green Job Corps would provide
23 residents of Hawaii who were economically impacted by the
24 COVID-19 pandemic with opportunities to receive the necessary
25 education and training for employment opportunities in the
26 resiliency and green sectors, such as local agriculture,
27 conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool
28 conversions, and technology industries; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Aloha Connects Innovation program of the
31 Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and KUPU 'Aina Corps, two
32 workforce development initiatives launched by the State with
33 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds, are
34 potential programs to integrate and build upon in establishing a
35 statewide Jobs Corps program; and

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37 WHEREAS, the report "From Today to Tomorrow: A Talent
38 Roadmap to Support Economic Recovery in Hawai'i" produced in
39 collaboration by the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative, Hawai'i
40 Community Foundation, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Strada
41 Education Network, Jobs for the Future, Hawai'i P-20 and the
42 Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii provides an aligned framework to



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1 establish a statewide Jobs Corps program by outlining a talent
 2 development strategy through expanding work-based learning,
 3 retraining, credentialing programs, industry-driven solutions,
 4 and partnerships; now, therefore,

5
 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 8 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and
 9 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism are
 10 requested to work together to establish a statewide Green Jobs
 11 Corps program to support economic diversification, alleviate the
 12 unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist the
 13 State in meeting its clean energy goals; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development
 16 Council and Hawaii State Energy Office are requested to advise
 17 in the effort to establish a statewide Green Jobs Corps program;
 18 and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state lands classified as
 21 conservation district be considered as properties to manage and
 22 steward through workforce development initiatives; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 25 Economic Development, and Tourism and Department of Labor and
 26 Industrial Relations are requested to identify public-private
 27 partnerships and outline components of a statewide Green Jobs
 28 Corps program that focuses on resiliency and green sector jobs
 29 and submit a report of their findings and recommendations,
 30 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 31 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 32 of 2023; and

33
 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Labor and
 36 Industrial Relations; Director of Business, Economic
 37 Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of the Board of Land
 38 and Natural Resources.

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 41 OFFERED BY: *Bernette J. Wilson*

