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## 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 COVID-  
2 19 pandemic, Hawaii had one of the lowest unemployment rates in  
3 the nation. The pandemic has placed tens of thousands of  
4 residents out of work and Hawaii now has among the nation's  
5 highest rates of unemployment. The department of labor and  
6 industrial relations reported that in September 2019, Hawaii had  
7 a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.7 per cent,  
8 compared to a national unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent, and a  
9 year later, in September 2020, Hawaii's unemployment rate was  
10 15.1 per cent, compared to a national unemployment rate of 7.9  
11 per cent. In addition, tourism, the State's largest industry,  
12 has dropped considerably because of the pandemic, providing a  
13 unique opportunity to build a more resilient, equitable, and  
14 diversified economy, and highlighting the need for increased and  
15 diverse workforce development initiatives.

16           The legislature further finds that models exist for the  
17 creation of such initiatives to support the State's ailing



1 workforce. The Civilian Conservation Corps established after  
2 the Great Depression was a federal work relief program to help  
3 employ Americans on conservation projects, alleviate economic  
4 distress, and support the protection and responsible development  
5 of natural resources and agricultural use. The federal Job  
6 Corps program is a no-cost education and career technical  
7 training program administered by the United States Department of  
8 Labor that helps young people ages sixteen to twenty-four  
9 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and  
10 academic training. In addition, the Hawaii job corps center  
11 supports the Job Corps program's mission to teach eligible young  
12 people the skills they need to become employable and independent  
13 and place them in meaningful jobs or further their education.

14 The State is mandated to be powered by one hundred per cent  
15 renewable energy and to sequester more carbon than the State  
16 emits by 2045. The State is also mandated to transition  
17 cesspools to septic systems by 2050. The legislature finds  
18 that, to support a comprehensive economic recovery, the State  
19 must invest in our community and emerging economic sectors and  
20 provide residents with the education and training opportunities  
21 they need to succeed. The creation of a state-run job corps



1 program would provide residents of all ages who have been  
2 economically impacted by the pandemic with opportunities to  
3 learn new skills and increase their prospects of employment  
4 within resiliency and green sectors, including local  
5 agriculture, conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy,  
6 cesspool conversion, and technology.

7 The legislature also finds that Aloha Connects Innovation  
8 and Kupu 'Āina Corps are two workforce development initiatives  
9 launched by the State with federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and  
10 Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, and serve as examples the  
11 State can integrate and build upon in establishing its own job  
12 corps program. The State can also capitalize on "From Today to  
13 Tomorrow: A Talent Roadmap to Support Economic Recovery" by the  
14 Hawaii Executive Collaborative, which provides a framework to  
15 establish a job corps program by outlining a talent development  
16 strategy through expanding work-based learning, retraining,  
17 credentialing programs, industry-driven solutions, and  
18 partnerships.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

20 (1) Establish a job corps program within the department of  
21 business, economic development, and tourism to help



1 address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,  
2 support economic diversification, and focus on  
3 resiliency and green sector jobs; and

4 (2) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
6 of business, economic development, and tourism a state job corps  
7 program to address the unemployment impact of the COVID-19  
8 pandemic. The program shall support economic diversification  
9 and focus on resiliency and green sector jobs.

10 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
11 the 2022 regular session, the department of business, economic  
12 development, and tourism shall submit an interim report to the  
13 legislature on its progress in implementing the requirements of  
14 subsection (a).

15 (c) No later than twenty days prior the convening of the  
16 2023 regular session, the department of business, economic  
17 development, and tourism shall submit a final report on the  
18 outcomes of the program established pursuant to subsection (a),  
19 including recommendations on whether the program should be made  
20 permanent and any future funding needs.



1 SECTION 3. 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 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
8 of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2021



# H.B. NO. 1176

**Report Title:**

Job Corps Program; DBEDT; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes a state job corps program within the department of business, economic development, and tourism to help address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. Appropriates funds for this purpose.

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