

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE COMPTROLLER CONVENE A HEALTHY WORKPLACE
WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS TO
TRANSFORM STATE FACILITIES INTO GREEN FACILITIES AND
MAXIMIZE HEALTH, IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, AND REDUCE FACILITY
COSTS.

1 WHEREAS, individuals who work in state facilities provide a
2 variety of crucial services to the people of Hawaii, and members
3 of the public frequently visit state facilities to seek public
4 services; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the current design of state facilities is often
7 outdated; does not consider quality of user experience; can
8 negatively impact worker health and productivity; and is
9 typically not capable of addressing airflow, social distancing,
10 and other issues raised by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
11 19) pandemic; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic illuminates the importance
14 of health and safety in workplace environments, and the United
15 States Senate recognized this importance and, in March 2021,
16 introduced bipartisan legislation called the Healthy Workplaces
17 Tax Credit Act to create a tax incentive that offsets the costs
18 of implementing key strategies for creating healthy and safe
19 work environments; and

20
21 WHEREAS, a joint study conducted by Harvard University,
22 State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and
23 Syracuse University linked green office environments with higher
24 cognitive function scores and increased productivity, finding
25 that people who work in well-ventilated offices with below-
26 average levels of indoor pollutants and carbon dioxide have
27 significantly higher cognitive function scores in crucial areas,
28 such as responding to a crisis or developing a strategy, than
29 those who work in offices with typical levels; and

30



1 WHEREAS, studies by Carnegie Mellon; American Society of
2 Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Journal;
3 and World Greenbuilding Council have found that worker
4 productivity in learning performance, reading speed,
5 multiplication speed, and word memory increased from eight to
6 twenty percent from improved air quality and daylight, and up to
7 sixty-six percent from controlled interior temperatures and
8 noise reduction; and
9

10 WHEREAS, an analysis in the International Journal of
11 Environmental Research and Public Health regarding the economic,
12 environmental, and health implications of enhanced ventilation
13 of office buildings found that increased ventilation from twenty
14 cubic feet per minute (cfm) per person to forty cfm per person
15 corresponds to a \$6,500 economic gain in a typical office
16 worker's productivity per year; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the findings of these studies and analysis are
19 consistent with years of prior research, demonstrating that
20 improved indoor environmental quality, lighting, and environment
21 are associated with better health and productivity outcomes for
22 those who work in these improved environments; and
23

24 WHEREAS, with the State employing nearly forty-eight
25 thousand civil workers, according to a 2018 Department of Human
26 Resources Development Workforce Demographic Data report,
27 improving health and wellness could result in \$300,000,000 in
28 additional value and savings to the public annually; and
29

30 WHEREAS, improving the health and productivity of state
31 workers and visitors by transforming state facilities into green
32 facilities is in the best interest of the State; now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Comptroller is
37 requested to convene a Healthy Workplace Working Group to review
38 and recommend improvements to transform state facilities into
39 green facilities, maximize the health and productivity of the
40 individuals that work and visit these facilities, and reduce
41 facility costs; and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working
2 Group consist of the following members or their designees:

- 3
- 4 (1) The Comptroller, who shall serve as chairperson of the
5 Working Group;
- 6
- 7 (2) Two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives;
- 9
- 10 (3) Two members to be appointed by the President of the
11 Senate;
- 12
- 13 (4) The President of the Hawaii Chapter of the United
14 States Green Building Council;
- 15
- 16 (5) The President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American
17 Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-
18 Conditioning Engineers; and
- 19
- 20 (6) The President of the Honolulu Chapter of the American
21 Institute of Architects; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working
24 Group consist of two additional members with technical knowledge
25 of green workplace environments with credentials or membership
26 in one of the following nationally recognized health and
27 wellness professional organizations:

- 28
- 29 (1) LEED Accredited Professional with Specialty under the
30 U.S. Green Building Council;
- 31
- 32 (2) WELL Accredited Professional under the International
33 Well Building Institute; or
- 34
- 35 (3) Acceptable Indoor Air Quality Committee member of the
36 American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-
37 Conditioning Engineers 62.1 Standards on Ventilation;
38 and
- 39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working
41 Group may invite other interested parties to participate in the
42 working group as appropriate; and



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1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Healthy
3 Workplace Working Group shall serve without compensation; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working
6 Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and
7 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
8 Legislature no later than December 31, 2021; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
12 Comptroller.
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15

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clem', is written over a horizontal line.