

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE 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  
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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7 outdated; does not consider quality of user experience; can  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  
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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  
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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  
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31           WHEREAS, studies by Carnegie Mellon; American Society of  
32 Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Journal;  
33 and World Greenbuilding Council have found that worker



1 productivity in learning performance, reading speed,  
2 multiplication speed, and word memory increased from eight to  
3 twenty percent from improved air quality and daylight, and up to  
4 sixty-six percent from controlled interior temperatures and  
5 noise reduction; and

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

14  
15 WHEREAS, the findings of these studies and analysis are  
16 consistent with years of prior research, demonstrating that  
17 improved indoor environmental quality, lighting, and environment  
18 are associated with better health and productivity outcomes for  
19 those who work in these improved environments; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, with the State employing nearly forty-eight  
22 thousand civil workers, according to a 2018 Department of Human  
23 Resources Development Workforce Demographic Data report,  
24 improving health and wellness could result in \$300,000,000 in  
25 additional value and savings to the public annually; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, improving the health and productivity of state  
28 workers and visitors by transforming state facilities into green  
29 facilities is in the best interest of the State; now, therefore,

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

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working  
40 Group consist of the following members or their designees:

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- 1           (1) The Comptroller, who shall serve as chairperson of the
- 2           Working Group;
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- 4           (2) Two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
- 5           House of Representatives;
- 6
- 7           (3) Two members to be appointed by the President of the
- 8           Senate;
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- 10          (4) The President of the Hawaii Chapter of the United
- 11          States Green Building Council;
- 12
- 13          (5) The President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American
- 14          Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-
- 15          Conditioning Engineers; and
- 16
- 17          (6) The President of the Honolulu Chapter of the American
- 18          Institute of Architects; and

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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working

21 Group consist of two additional members with technical knowledge

22 of green workplace environments with credentials or membership

23 in one of the following nationally recognized health and

24 wellness professional organizations:

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

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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working

38 Group may invite other interested parties to participate in the

39 working group as appropriate; and

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41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Healthy

42 Workplace Working Group shall serve without compensation; and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Workplace Working  
3 Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
4 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
5 Legislature no later than December 31, 2021; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Comptroller.  
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OFFERED BY: 

