

MAR 10 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO COLLECT DATA RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE IN HAWAII, EVALUATE THE COLLECTED DATA, AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.

1 WHEREAS, information technology has become a significant
2 component of Hawaii's economy that propels the prosperity of the
3 State as an economic driver that covers a wide range of
4 industries; and
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6 WHEREAS, according to a report titled "Hawai'i IT Workforce
7 Needs Report" published in November 2021 by SMS Research and
8 Marketing Services, Inc. ("SMS Report"), the information
9 technology industry contributed \$2,037,000,000 or 2.2 percent to
10 Hawaii's total nominal gross domestic products (GDP) in 2018;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, despite not contributing as much nominal GDP as
14 the real estate, accommodation, and retail industries, the
15 information technology industry had the highest annual real GDP
16 growth rate among all sectors between 2001 and 2018 at 4.9
17 percent; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2020, the information technology sector in
20 Hawaii encompassed 12,740 jobs, 3,834 hires, and 894 average
21 annual job openings; and
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23 WHEREAS, the average hourly wage for Hawaii's technology
24 industry is \$39.92, which is more than double the \$15.53
25 survival level hourly wage for individuals in the State as
26 reported in the 2020 ALICE Report for Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics data
29 shows that the projected increase in computer and technology
30 occupations between 2020 to 2030 is thirteen percent nationally,
31 however, the projected employment increase in the computer and
32 mathematics occupation group in Hawaii between 2018 and 2028 is
33 limited to seven percent; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the demand for employees in the information
3 technology field in Hawaii exceeds the number of available
4 individuals seeking jobs in the industry; and
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6 WHEREAS, ensuring that the State's workforce has an
7 adequate and efficient education in information technology is
8 essential for the continued growth of Hawaii's economy; and
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10 WHEREAS, to develop a thriving information technology
11 workforce, the State must improve various aspects of its
12 workforce development programs; and
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14 WHEREAS, one of the fundamental components of building a
15 robust qualified workforce is the collection of relevant data
16 that will enable better evaluation of available programs and
17 contribute to better planning for the future; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
21 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is
22 requested to:
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24 (1) Collect data relating to the development of an
25 information technology workforce in Hawaii, which
26 should include but not be limited to:
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28 (A) Courses, trainings, and programs currently being
29 offered in Hawaii relating to information
30 technology;
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32 (B) Information technology internship programs
33 offered by public and private organizations in
34 Hawaii;
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36 (C) Certifications and licenses relating to
37 information technology issued in Hawaii,
38 including:
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40 (i) The category or type of certifications and
41 licenses; and
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(ii) The number of certificates and licenses issued each year by category or type; and

(D) Current information on the individuals who completed the courses, training, or programs, or obtained the certificates or licenses, including:

(i) Their occupation;

(ii) The industry they work in; and

(iii) The state or country they currently reside;

(2) Evaluate the collected data and develop a strategy to provide better information technology training to individuals and retain them in Hawaii to build a flourishing information technology workforce in Hawaii; and

(3) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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

OFFERED BY:

Bennett E. Marshall

