
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii went from
2 having one of the lowest unemployment rates of any state in the
3 United States to one of the highest, leaving many skilled and
4 promising young people out of work. Given the impact that
5 prolonged youth unemployment can have on the lifetime earnings
6 and wellbeing of individuals, the limited opportunities for
7 youth and young adults require action on the part of the State.

8 The legislature further finds that the Civilian
9 Conservation Corps was a work relief program created in 1933 to
10 employ Americans during the Great Depression through
11 conservation projects of local, state, and national benefit,
12 providing opportunities for displaced young adults. The State
13 of Hawaii established the Hawaii youth conservation corps, which
14 provided young people with opportunities in conservation on a
15 much smaller scale. This program currently operates within the
16 policies set out under chapter 193, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
17 Nationally and in Hawaii, the legacy of the Civilian



1 Conservation Corps continues through local and state service and
2 conservation corps, especially those accredited under the
3 national corps network.

4 The legislature also finds that during the regular session
5 of 2020, the legislature passed Act 9, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2020, which used funds designated for the State by the federal
7 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to establish
8 a workforce and training program that, among other
9 accomplishments, funded a short term green jobs program. Act
10 181, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, subsequently authorized the
11 governor to designate the department of land and natural
12 resources to administer or enter into an agreement or agreements
13 for the administration of a green jobs youth corps program to
14 provide temporary work and training opportunities in natural
15 resource management, agriculture, conservation, renewable
16 energy, or other sustainability professions, prioritizing
17 participation by young adults between twenty and forty years of
18 age. The nonprofit organization Kupu was selected to administer
19 the green jobs youth corps program. Under the Kupu Aina Corps,
20 over three hundred fifty displaced workers and recent graduates
21 were matched with work and training opportunities across the



1 State. Kupu's partnership with conservation and agricultural
2 host sites enabled individuals to work in their own communities
3 while also giving back to Hawaii's economy and environment.

4 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 5 (1) Amend the age requirement for participation in the
6 green jobs youth corps program; and
- 7 (2) Appropriate funds for administration of the green jobs
8 youth corps program.

9 SECTION 2. Section 193-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "[+]§193-32[+] **Administration.** To carry out the program
12 authorized by this part, the governor may:

- 13 (1) Enter into an agreement or agreements, or designate
14 the department of land and natural resources, or any
15 other state department or departments as the state
16 agency or agencies to enter into an agreement or
17 agreements, with the proper authorities of the United
18 States;
- 19 (2) Designate the department of land and natural
20 resources, or any state department or departments to
21 design programs to provide healthful outdoor training



1 and employment for young persons and to advance the
2 conservation, development, and management of natural
3 resources and recreational areas, in accordance with
4 the applicable federal law; provided that the
5 designated department or departments may also adopt
6 appropriate rules under chapter 91 to carry out the
7 programs so designed;

- 8 (3) Designate the department of land and natural resources
9 to administer or enter into an agreement or agreements
10 for the administration of a green job youth corps
11 program that provides temporary work and training
12 opportunities in one or more of the following fields:
13 natural resource management, agriculture,
14 conservation, renewable energy, or other
15 sustainability professions. The program shall
16 prioritize economic diversification and provide work
17 and training opportunities for ~~[young adults]~~ those
18 who are ~~[between twenty years of age and forty]~~
19 thirty-eight years of age ~~[and economic~~
20 ~~diversification;]~~ or younger; provided that the
21 department of land and natural resources shall partner



1 with organizations that have experience providing
 2 similar programming in the State; and
 3 (4) Defray one-half of all costs incurred with respect to
 4 the programs or any other proportion of the costs of
 5 the programs, which may be required by the applicable
 6 laws of the United States, out of any moneys
 7 appropriated to the department or departments
 8 designated to participate in the programs, without
 9 regard to the original purpose of the appropriations."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
 13 the administration of the green jobs youth corps program as
 14 provided in this Act; provided that the sum appropriated shall
 15 be used for the purposes of the program to provide at least one
 16 thousand participants with experience in the green jobs youth
 17 corps for a period of nine to twelve months, subject to
 18 sufficient funds; provided further that notwithstanding any law
 19 to the contrary, the department of land and natural resources
 20 and its partner or partners shall be permitted to obtain and
 21 utilize federal or other outside funding for the purpose of



1 matching state funds provided for the green jobs youth corps
2 program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

8



H.B. NO. 1989 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Green Jobs Youth Corps; Sustainability; Appropriation

Description:

Amends the age requirement for participation in the green jobs youth corps program. Appropriates funds for administration of the program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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