

JAN 21 2022

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 (Act 9), which used funds designated for the State by the
7 federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to
8 establish a workforce and training program that, among other
9 accomplishments, funded a short term green jobs program in
10 partnership with the nonprofit Kupu. Under the Kupu Aina Corps,
11 over three hundred fifty displaced workers and recent graduates
12 were matched with work and training opportunities across the
13 State. Kupu's partnership with conservation and agricultural
14 host sites enabled individuals to work in their own communities
15 while also giving back to Hawaii's economy and environment.

16 The legislature additionally finds that more must be done
17 in order to support the diversification of Hawaii's economy, but
18 that the program established under part XV of Act 9 is no longer
19 active.

20 The purpose of this Act is to enable the same benefits of
21 the workforce program under Act 9 in terms of economic



1 diversification and stimulus, but with a greater focus on young
2 adults, and placing it within an existing, permanent program
3 established in law under the administration of the agency most
4 familiar with conservation and oversight of a conservation
5 corps. While retaining the State's existing authority
6 administer the existing program, this Act also provides the
7 authority to administer a green jobs youth corps in partnership
8 with a qualified community organization.

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; [~~and~~]

8 (3) Defray one-half of all costs incurred with respect to
9 the programs or any other proportion of the costs of
10 the programs, which may be required by the applicable
11 laws of the United States, out of any moneys
12 appropriated to the department or departments
13 designated to participate in the programs, without
14 regard to the original purpose of the
15 appropriations[~~-~~]; and

16 (4) Designate the department of land and natural resources
17 to administer or enter into an agreement for the
18 administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide
19 temporary work and training opportunities in one or
20 more of the following fields:

21 (A) Natural resource management;



1 (B) Agriculture; or
2 (C) Other sustainability-related professions;
3 provided that these opportunities shall be available
4 to young adults who are twenty-six years of age or
5 younger; provided further that the department shall
6 partner with an organization that received
7 accreditation from the Corps Center of Excellence
8 Accreditation Program or has at least ten years of
9 experience providing similar programming statewide in
10 the State, or both."

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



1 other outside funding for the purpose of matching state funds
2 provided for the green jobs youth corps.

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, 2022.

8

INTRODUCED BY: *Jessica J. Anaya*



S.B. NO. 2768

Report Title:

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

Description:

Authorizes the governor to designate the department of land and natural resources to administer or enter into an agreement for the administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions to young adults ages twenty-six and younger. Requires the department to partner with an organization that has received accreditation from the Corps Center of Excellence Accreditation Program or has at least ten years of experience providing similar programming statewide in the State, or both. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

