
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is the most
2 isolated population center in the world, situated approximately
3 two thousand four hundred miles from the closest landmass, the
4 mainland United States. Given this geographical isolation,
5 efficient transportation is critical for the survival of the
6 State's population and tourism industry. Commercial driver's
7 license holders play a pivotal role in moving shipments from
8 docks and airports to shelves, as storage space is limited
9 within the State.

10 The legislature further finds that Hawaii grapples with a
11 shortage of commercial drivers, a challenge mirrored on the
12 continental United States. The nationwide deficit of truck
13 drivers is more than eighty thousand. If current trends
14 persist, the deficit is projected to double to one hundred sixty
15 thousand by 2030, as warned by Haley Fenton of Western Pacific
16 Truck School.



1 The legislature also finds that this scarcity in the number
2 of commercial drivers directly impacts the State's education
3 system, for which more than two hundred additional commercial
4 drivers are required to fully cover school bus routes statewide,
5 forcing some students to ride public transit. To address this
6 growing crisis, it is imperative to develop and implement a
7 strategic plan that encourages employment in the commercial
8 driver's field to ensure the State's economic and social
9 well-being.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a working
11 group within the department of transportation to address the
12 State's current and future needs for commercial driver's license
13 holders.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a working group
15 within the department of transportation. The working group
16 shall:

- 17 (1) Engage both public and private sectors to increase
18 awareness of the ground transportation industry and
19 its' workforce needs; and
- 20 (2) Collaborate with key stakeholders to identify and
21 develop possible career paths for qualified commercial



1 drivers, prioritizing filling vacancies within the
2 department of education, with the ultimate goal of
3 filling vacancies within the private and public
4 sectors.

5 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
6 members:

7 (1) The director of transportation, or the director's
8 designee, who shall serve as the co-chair of the
9 working group;

10 (2) One member from the department of education workforce
11 development branch, who shall serve as the co-chair of
12 the working group;

13 (3) A campus coordinator from the office of workforce
14 development at the university of Hawaii community
15 colleges who is in charge of a workforce development
16 program that includes commercial driver's license
17 training;

18 (4) One member from the department of labor and industrial
19 relations workforce development council;

20 (5) Four members, each representing one county's
21 commercial driver's licensing office; and



1 (6) Four members, each representing one county's workforce
2 development board.

3 (c) The director of transportation shall invite
4 representatives from the following organizations to serve as
5 members of the working group:

6 (1) Two members representing the Hawaii Transportation
7 Association;

8 (2) One member representing the labor union representing
9 commercial driver's license holders; and

10 (3) One member representing a local non-profit
11 organization currently providing commercial driver's
12 license training.

13 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its
14 findings and recommendations to address the shortage of
15 commercial drivers in the State, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOT; Workforce Development; Commercial Drivers; Working Group;
Report

Description:

Establishes a working group within the Department of
Transportation to address the workforce shortage of commercial
drivers in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature.
Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

