

JAN 24 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that addressing the  
2 growing shortage in the State's construction trades workforce is  
3 in the public interest and a key priority of the State. The  
4 department of business, economic development, and tourism  
5 reported in December 2023 that the State's construction near-  
6 term outlook is favorable. For Hawaii residents to capitalize  
7 on this opportunity, the State needs to find ways to effectively  
8 recruit, incentivize, train, and support individuals to join the  
9 construction trades in order to build the affordable housing and  
10 renewable energy projects needed, thereby creating a more  
11 sustainable economy that allows our residents to afford the  
12 rising cost of living and raise families in the State.

13           The legislature further finds that according to the  
14 university of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO),  
15 there will be a need for an additional two thousand construction  
16 workers for Maui in the aftermath of the Lahaina wildfires, and  
17 another three thousand construction workers for Oahu due to



1 several large projects, including the expansion of the Pearl  
2 Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility,  
3 which is critical to national security.

4 The purpose of this Act is to support construction trades  
5 by establishing a construction trades workforce development  
6 program in the department of labor and industrial relations to  
7 prepare high school students for careers in the construction  
8 trades that pay living wages with benefits and provide high  
9 quality training through a state-approved apprenticeship  
10 program.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§371- Construction trades workforce development  
15 program. (a) There is established a construction trades  
16 workforce development program in the department to develop,  
17 establish, and implement a construction trades career pathway  
18 program for high school students in the State. The department  
19 shall collaborate with the department of education and  
20 stakeholders in the industry to develop the program.

21 (b) The program shall:



- 1        (1) Develop and implement curriculum standards for the  
2                    construction trades training program; provided that  
3                    the curriculum standards are aligned with national  
4                    certification standards and industry needs;
- 5        (2) Authorize and enable construction industry trade  
6                    professionals to teach and administer training classes  
7                    at schools and assist in course development;
- 8        (3) Assist public high schools in establishing or  
9                    expanding construction trade classrooms and workshops;
- 10       (4) Facilitate public-private partnerships between schools  
11                   and construction companies and industry professionals  
12                   for program participants and internship opportunities;
- 13       (5) Prioritize the development of internship opportunities  
14                   for program participants with construction companies;  
15                   provided that:
- 16                (A) Internship experiences shall be aligned with  
17                   program curriculum and provide participants with  
18                   hands-on training and skill development in a  
19                   professional setting; and
- 20                (B) Paid internships shall be encouraged whenever  
21                   possible, but internships may be unpaid; and



- 1       (6) Collaborate with community colleges and training  
2       organizations to create seamless pathways for program  
3       graduates to pursue further education and industry  
4       certifications.
- 5       (c) The program may:
- 6       (1) Accept and utilize private funding for renovations and  
7       equipment in the establishment of construction trades  
8       classrooms and workshops at public high schools;
- 9       (2) Enter into memoranda of agreements or memoranda of  
10       understanding with private funding providers and  
11       schools where the program classes are to be  
12       administered; provided that the private funding  
13       providers may have input regarding:
- 14       (A) The selection of construction trades to be  
15       offered in the program;
- 16       (B) The curriculum development process, including  
17       whether the private funding provider may provide  
18       instructors as a condition to the program; and
- 19       (C) The selection of internship programs; and
- 20       (3) Provide intermediate school outreach and educational  
21       opportunities in the construction trades, including



1           field trip opportunities to training centers for the  
2           trades within the State.

3           (d) The director shall submit an annual report on the  
4           status of the program and findings and recommendations,  
5           including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
6           than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
7           session."

8           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
11 the establishment and implementation of the construction trades  
12 workforce development program.

13           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

15           SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
16 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
18 appropriations contained in H.B. No.           , will cause the state  
19 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
20 exceeded by \$            or            per cent. In addition, the  
21 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund



1 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
2 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. The combined total  
3 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
4 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
5 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
6 \$                    or                    per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
7 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 8           (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
9            serve the public interest; and  
10          (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
11           addressed by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Kurt Fiedler*

# S.B. NO. 3271

**Report Title:**

DLIR; DOE; Construction Trades Workforce Development Program;  
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Establishes a construction trades workforce development program in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to develop, establish, and implement a construction trades career pathway program for high school students in the State. 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.*

