
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.

14

INTRODUCED BY:

Josh LeChice

JAN 23 2024



H.B. NO. 2575

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.

