
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE STATE'S CURRENT
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, such as New York and
2 California, Hawaii lacks adequate advocacy from the executive
3 branch for workforce development; and

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5 WHEREAS, tourism and retail, the State's most dominant
6 economic sectors, provide relatively low wages for workers, most
7 of whom are of Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and Filipino
8 heritage; and

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10 WHEREAS, work-based learning and development programs allow
11 youth and adults to explore new opportunities, build skills, and
12 transition into new career pathways; and

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14 WHEREAS, providing workforce development and work-based
15 learning programs to train low wage workers for higher wage
16 sectors will improve their economic status and reduce the racial
17 wealth gap; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2024, that the Department of Labor and Industrial
22 Relations and the Workforce Development Council is requested to
23 establish a task force to conduct a comprehensive study of the
24 State's current education and workforce development programs;
25 and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development
28 Council is requested to select the members of the task force;
29 and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 1 (1) Identify strategies to locate industries experiencing
2 worker shortage;
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- 4 (2) Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and
5 retention of workers in industries experiencing worker
6 shortage;
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- 8 (3) Identify strategies to expand experiential, work-based
9 learning opportunities for adults and youth in the
10 target populations;
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- 12 (4) Identify strategies for closing the digital divide for
13 disconnected State residents to create new
14 opportunities for participation in society and the
15 economy;
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- 17 (5) Study the State's existing education and workplace
18 development programs and identify the programs that
19 provide resources to the target populations;
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- 21 (6) Study the pathways for obtaining certain in-demand
22 occupational licenses;
23
- 24 (7) Ensure that English language learners have access to
25 work-based learning, job training, and employment
26 opportunities and the support they need for success in
27 employment;
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- 29 (8) Identify strategies to ensure programs are coordinated
30 in a manner that maximizes participation for employers
31 and employees;
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- 33 (9) Provide recommendations on:
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 - 35 (A) How to identify, enhance, and expand effective
36 workforce development programs to facilitate the
37 training and employment of historically untapped
38 workforce populations in specific fields; and
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 - 40 (B) Additional programs that will address the
41 identified needs of the target populations; and
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1 (10) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
2 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
3 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the Regular Session of 2025.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
Industrial Relations and Executive Director of the Workforce
Development Council.

OFFERED BY: MAB

MAR 08 2024

