

MAR - 7 2024

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# SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-second  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
21 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the  
22 Workforce Development Council is requested to establish a task  
23 force to conduct a comprehensive study of the State's current  
24 education and workforce development programs; and  
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26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development  
27 Council is requested to select the members of the task force;  
28 and  
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30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:  
31



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- 1 (1) Identify strategies to locate industries experiencing  
2 worker shortage;
- 3  
4 (2) Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and  
5 retention of workers in industries experiencing worker  
6 shortage;
- 7  
8 (3) Identify strategies to expand experiential, work-based  
9 learning opportunities for adults and youth in the  
10 target populations;
- 11  
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;
- 16  
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;
- 20  
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;
- 28  
29 (8) Identify strategies to ensure programs are coordinated  
30 in a manner that maximizes participation for employers  
31 and employees;
- 32  
33 (9) Provide recommendations on:  
34  
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  
39  
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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6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and  
8 Industrial Relations and Executive Director of the Workforce  
9 Development Council.

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OFFERED BY: 

