

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO
STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HAWAII WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE
AWARD PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Meilleur Ouvrier de France, meaning "best
2 craftsperson of France", is a historic competition established
3 in 1924 to recognize and revitalize traditional craftsmanship in
4 France; and

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6 WHEREAS, the competition preserves and expands artisans'
7 knowledge through the fostering of competition and public
8 elevation of craftsmanship; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Meilleur Ouvrier de France showcases France's
11 unique culture through a diverse display of traditional
12 professions, in over two hundred categories, including florists,
13 chefs, and carpenters; and

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15 WHEREAS, those vying for the Meilleur Ouvrier de France
16 title are judged against a standard of perfection, rather than
17 against each other, allowing for multiple or no awardees; and

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19 WHEREAS, winners of the Meilleur Ouvrier de France are
20 awarded a medal and state diploma and hosted by the French
21 President at the Elysee Palace; and

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23 WHEREAS, Meilleur Ouvrier de France titles are awarded for
24 life, christening winners as custodians of their trade and
25 tasking them with the preservation and generational sharing of
26 their knowledge; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii also has a rich history of fine
29 craftsmanship and is home to a wide variety of tradespersons;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, preserving cultural knowledge and promoting
33 alternative career paths to diversify the economy are key
34 priorities for the State; and

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1 WHEREAS, creating a state award program for craftspersons
2 would demonstrate the State's dedication to preserving its
3 significant cultural history and promote future participation in
4 potentially dwindling trades; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
8 that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is
9 requested to conduct a study, with industry input, on the
10 establishment of a Workforce Excellence Award Program
11 recognizing craftspersons in the State, where nominations are
12 collected from the public and annual awards are presented by the
13 Governor at a historically significant venue; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
16 Industrial Relations is requested to research, assess, and make
17 recommendations on:
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- 19 (1) A Hawaii Workforce Excellence Award Program similar to
20 the Meilleur Ouvrier de France and how it may best be
21 adapted to suit the State;
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23 (2) Key industries to include in the Hawaii Workforce
24 Excellence Award Program; and
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26 (3) Cost-effective means of adopting the Hawaii Workforce
27 Excellence Award Program; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
30 Industrial Relations is requested to submit a report of its
31 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
32 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
33 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Governor and
37 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.
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OFFERED BY: _____

