
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that federal defense-
2 related contracting represents a significant share of Hawaii's
3 economy and provides substantial opportunities for local
4 businesses and residents. The legislature further finds that
5 federal investment in military and defense activities has
6 increased substantially in recent years, with congressional
7 appropriations for defense growing by approximately one billion
8 dollars annually over the past few fiscal years.

9 Consistent with the organization and purpose of the
10 executive branch under chapter 26, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
11 effective coordination among state agencies and between state,
12 federal, and military partners is a core governmental function
13 necessary for the efficient administration of public programs
14 and services. The military and community relations office
15 serves as the State's central point of coordination on military
16 and defense-related matters. Strengthening the capacity and
17 effectiveness of this office improves intergovernmental



1 coordination, enhances communication and responsiveness, and
2 supports the effective delivery of public services related to
3 defense activities, workforce development, infrastructure, and
4 community relations.

5 Additionally, Hawaii's strategic location and military
6 presence captures a meaningful portion of federal defense
7 investment, and that defense-related expenditures constitute a
8 significant share of the State's economy relative to other
9 states. Increasing Hawaii's ability to compete for and perform
10 federal work requires coordinated investments in: (1) local
11 business readiness and compliance support; (2) workforce
12 education-to-career pathways that lead to job placement; and (3)
13 in-state advanced manufacturing, repair, and sustainment
14 capacity that strengthens the State's industrial base and
15 reduces long lead times for critical parts and services.

16 The legislature further finds that effective workforce and
17 industry development efforts would help align early career
18 training with employer demand, connect individuals to
19 internships and job placements, and track measurable outcomes
20 through periodic reporting. Strategic coordination is necessary
21 to integrate -12 exposure, early college opportunities,



1 internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align
2 workforce development with Hawaii's evolving industrial and
3 defense-related needs.

4 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for the
5 military and community relations office to enhance the State's
6 capacity for intergovernmental coordination and effective
7 administration of defense-related programs, and to strengthen
8 Hawaii's defense-related workforce pathways, local business
9 readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity,
10 thereby improving public service delivery, economic resilience,
11 and the State's ability to capture and retain federal
12 investment.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
16 military and community relations office to enhance the State's
17 capacity for intergovernmental coordination, communication, and
18 program administration responsibilities related to military and
19 defense activities, workforce development, business readiness,
20 and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

5

INTRODUCED BY:

Mike A. Buletti

JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2235

Report Title:

DBEDT; Military Affairs and Community Relations Office; Intergovernmental Coordination; Defense-Related Workforce Development; Advanced Manufacturing and Sustainment; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

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