

JAN 28 2026

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
2 defense-related contracting represents a significant share of
3 Hawaii's economy and provides substantial opportunities for
4 local businesses and residents. The legislature further finds
5 that federal investment in military and defense activities has
6 increased substantially in recent years, with congressional
7 appropriations for defense growing by approximately
8 \$1,000,000,000 annually over the past few fiscal years.

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



1 office will improve intergovernmental coordination, enhance
2 communication and responsiveness, and support the effective
3 delivery of public services related to defense activities,
4 workforce development, infrastructure, and community relations.

5 Additionally, the legislature finds that Hawaii, due to its
6 strategic location and military presence, captures a meaningful
7 portion of federal defense investment, and that defense-related
8 expenditures constitute a significant share of the State's
9 economy, relative to other states. Increasing Hawaii's ability
10 to compete for and perform federal work requires coordinated
11 investments in:

12 (1) Local business readiness and compliance support;
13 (2) Workforce education-to-career pathways that lead to
14 job placement; and
15 (3) In-state advanced manufacturing, repair, and
16 sustainment capacity that strengthens the State's
17 industrial base and reduces long lead times for
18 critical parts and services.

19 The legislature believes that effective workforce and
20 industry development efforts must align training with employer
21 demand, connect participants to internships and job placement,



1 and track measurable outcomes through periodic reporting. The
2 legislature also believes that strategic coordination is
3 necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades
4 kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities,
5 internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align
6 workforce development with Hawaii's evolving industrial and
7 defense-related needs.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to strengthen
9 Hawaii's defense-related workforce pathways, local business
10 readiness, and in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity
11 and improve public service delivery, economic resilience, and
12 the State's ability to capture and retain federal investment by
13 making an appropriation to the military and community affairs
14 office to enhance the State's capacity for intergovernmental
15 coordination and effective administration of defense-related
16 programs.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to carry
20 out intergovernmental coordination, communication, and program
21 administration responsibilities related to military and defense



1 activities, workforce development, business readiness, and
2 in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the military and
4 community relations office of the department of business,
5 economic development, and tourism for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. The department of business, economic
7 development, and tourism, through the military and community
8 relations office, may collaborate with other state departments
9 and agencies, federal and military partners, educational
10 institutions, and private-sector stakeholders, as appropriate,
11 to carry out the purposes of this Act

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

13

INTRODUCED BY: Carol Johnson



S.B. NO. 3240

Report Title:

DBEDT; Military and Community Relations Office; Intergovernmental coordination; Defense-related workforce development; Advanced manufacturing and sustainment; Business readiness; Appropriation

Description:

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

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