

JAN 21 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, the Meilleur Ouvrier de France, translated as the
2 "best craftsman of France," is a historic competition
3 established in 1924 to recognize and revitalize traditional
4 crafts in France; and
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6 WHEREAS, this competition fosters and expands artisans'
7 skills by preserving and sharing generational knowledge while
8 also publicly elevating craftspeople and their work; 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 more than two hundred categories, including
13 florists, 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 for any
18 one category; and
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20 WHEREAS, each winner of the Meilleur Ouvrier de France is
21 awarded a medal and state diploma and hosted by the French
22 President at the Elysee Palace; and
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24 . WHEREAS, Meilleur Ouvrier de France titles are awarded for
25 life, christening winners as custodians of their trade and
26 tasking them with the preservation and sharing of generational
27 knowledge; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a rich history of skilled artisans and
2 fine craftspersons spanning a wide variety of crafts and trades;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, preserving cultural knowledge of these crafts and
6 trades would help to promote alternative career paths and
7 diversify the State's economy; and

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9 WHEREAS, establishing an award program for craftspersons
10 would demonstrate the State's commitment to preserving Hawaii's
11 significant cultural history and promote participation in
12 traditional crafts and trades; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
17 Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to conduct a study,
18 with industry input, on the feasibility of establishing of a
19 workforce excellence award program recognizing craftspersons in
20 the State, where nominations are collected from the public and
21 annual awards are presented by the Governor at a historically
22 significant venue; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
25 Industrial Relations is requested to research, assess, and make
26 recommendations on:

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28 (1) The feasibility of establishing in Hawaii a workforce
29 excellence award program similar to the Meilleur
30 Ouvrier de France to further the State's traditional
31 crafts and trades, preserve generational knowledge,
32 and promote participation in traditional crafts and
33 trades;

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35 (2) Key industries, crafts, and trades that should be
36 included in a workforce excellence award program; and

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38 (3) Cost-effective means of establishing a workforce
39 excellence award program; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
42 Industrial Relations is requested to submit a report of its



1 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
2 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
3 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the
7 Governor and Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.
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OFFERED BY: SKS

