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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 capture a meaningful portion of federal defense  
7 investment, and these 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 student 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 \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
16 the military and community relations office to enhance the  
17 State's capacity for intergovernmental coordination,  
18 communication, and program administration responsibilities  
19 related to military and defense activities, workforce  
20 development, business readiness, and in-state manufacturing and  
21 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, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DBEDT; Military 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 and Community  
Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination  
for military and defense activities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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