

ACT 26

A Bill for an Act to Increase Aid to Depressed Areas and Amending Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii 1961.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. This Act is hereby declared to be an urgency measure deemed necessary in the public interest within the meaning of Section 11 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The following is a statement of the facts constituting such urgency.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations reports that total unemployment in Hawaii increased by 3,950 to a total of 11,550 during the year 1961. This is 4.7 per cent of the labor force of the state. Unskilled workers account for the heaviest concentration of insured unemployed. Of the more than 4,000 unskilled workers, the large majority consisted of pineapple cannery and construction laborers.

Government intervention is necessary to assure prompt relief to small economically depressed areas resulting from abnormal unemployment in those areas.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this Act is to amend Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii, 1961, to broaden the definition of "depressed area" as that term is used in the said Act 185 to include (1) an island where an employer employing a substantial number of workers has definitely decided to terminate or to permanently curtail operations which may cause an abnormal concentration of jobless workers, and (2) employees of such employers and others on the island who may become jobless by such termination or curtailment to qualify, prior to becoming unemployed, for training of other needed skills through occupational or vocational training.

SECTION 3. Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii, 1961, is hereby amended as follows:

(a) Add to the end of Section 4 the following:

"(c) For the purposes set forth in Section 6(b) (1) of this Act, the Director may declare an island in the state as a 'depressed area' if he finds that an employer employing a substantial number of residents of such island is definitely terminating or permanently curtailing operations which may result in an abnormal number or concentration of jobless workers in the said island or there is a substantial concentration of jobless workers due to the discontinuance or decline of one or more major industries on the island."

(b) Amend Section 6(b) (1) to read as follows:

"(1) To aid financially or otherwise, in the depressed area, the occupational and vocational training of unemployed persons, which term is defined here to include those actually unemployed and those who may become unemployed by the termination or curtailment of operation by an employer as set forth in Section 4(c), to increase their skill and opportunity for employment in other lines of work in the labor market in which they reside, or within the state; and"

SECTION 4. The Department is hereby authorized to expend from the 'State Depressed Area Fund' a sum not to exceed \$50,000 for purposes of contracting with the Department of Education for the development and maintenance by the Division of Vocational, Post-High and Adult Education and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of a training or re-training program

ACT 26

for unemployed persons eligible under Section 6(b) (1) of Act 185, Session Laws of 1961. This authorization shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Director to extend aid, financially or otherwise, as provided by said Act 185, but shall limit only the amount of money to be expended by contract with the Department of Education.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 23, 1962.) **H.B. 681.**