

ACT 149

S. B. NO. 1059

A Bill for an Act Relating to Economic Development Program for Depressed Areas.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 208, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended in the following particulars:

(1) By amending section 208-3 to read:

**“Sec. 208-3 ‘Depressed area’ defined; designation of.** (a) The director of planning and economic development shall designate as a ‘depressed area’ any of the districts enumerated in section 4-1 when any of the following criteria is met in the district:

(1) Where the level of unemployment has been seven per cent or more for a period of six consecutive months immediately before the designation; or

(2) Where the population has declined five per cent or more per year for four of the five preceding calendar years.

(b) The director shall also designate as a 'depressed area' any area regardless of size which has been designated as a 'redevelopment area' by the federal government pursuant to law.

(c) For the purposes set forth in section 208-5(b) (1), the director may declare any district in the State as a 'depressed area' if he finds that an employer employing a substantial number of residents of the district is definitely terminating or permanently curtailing operations which may result in an abnormal number or concentration of jobless workers in the district or there is a substantial concentration of jobless workers due to the discontinuance or decline of one or more major industries in the district.

(d) The director may expend such amounts as are necessary from the depressed area fund for studies, surveys and feasibility analyses that would provide employment statistics to determine the eligibility of districts to be designated as depressed areas."

(2) By amending section 208-5(b) to read:

"(b) Upon the required declaration, the director, in consultation with the area redevelopment council, is further authorized:

- (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 208-3(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;
- (2) To furnish financially or otherwise technical assistance to any businesses or persons in the depressed area; and
- (3) To draft general economic development and redevelopment plans for the State, counties or districts, assist in the attraction of new business enterprise, expand existing business enterprise, prevent the termination or curtailment of operations by existing employers, or find new employment for those districts designated as depressed areas."

(3) By amending section 208-7(a) to read:

"(a) No aid shall be granted to or be used by any person or organization:

- (1) To compete with any public utility which adequately provides service in a depressed area;
- (2) To influence industry to move from one island of the State to another where the move will unduly depress the area in which the industry is located.

(4) By amending section 208-9 to read:

**"Sec. 208-9 Depressed area fund.** There is appropriated from the general revenues of the State sufficient moneys as may be necessary, from time to time, for expenditure by the director of planning and economic develop-

ment, with the approval of the governor, for the purpose specified in this chapter in rendering aid to a depressed area; provided that not more than \$500,000 may be expended by the director, with the approval of the governor, in rendering aid to any single depressed area, within a period of five years.”

SECTION 2. Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, bracketed material, or the underscoring.\*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 28, 1971.)

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\* Edited accordingly.