

ACT 71

H.B. NO. 2605

A Bill for an Act Relating to Labor.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the closure of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company, the State's last sugar plantation, and Makena Beach and Golf Resort will lead to a loss of over one thousand jobs on Maui. Although some employees of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company will be covered for job training assistance under the recent federal Trade Adjustment Act certification, other dislocated workers will not qualify. As these employees lose their jobs and income, restaurants and stores may see a decrease in customers and sales, families may not be able to pay their mortgages and rent, and students may no longer be able to afford school or college tuitions.

The legislature further finds that in 2014, the United States Department of Labor awarded the State a Job-Driven National Emergency Grant to implement or expand job-driven training programs for dislocated workers including but not limited to opportunities for on-the-job training and apprenticeships. However, these funds are limited and are due to expire on June 30, 2016, there-

ACT 71

by making the funds unavailable for a large group of dislocated workers in the county of Maui, who have diverse training needs.

The purpose of this Act is to address the pending unemployment and dislocation of workers in the county of Maui for whom there are insufficient federal funds, by appropriating funds to establish, administer, and support job training and other activities that assist these workers' transition into other employment.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$850,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to establish, administer, and support job training and preparation activities, including but not limited to basic computer literacy, job search assistance, skill assessments, vocational counseling, remedial math and English, English as a second language, vocational training, work experience, on-the-job training, and support services, such as assistance with work tools, safety shoes, and job certification fees for individuals who are dislocated from employment in the county of Maui.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

(Approved June 17, 2016.)