
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's community
2 colleges can play a critical role in the economic recovery and
3 revitalization of the State: from supporting the individual
4 worker going back to school for enhanced career opportunities to
5 helping companies and nonprofit organizations change the way
6 they do business in these difficult economic times. Community
7 colleges are at the forefront of workforce training both locally
8 and across the United States. Nationally, fifty-nine per cent
9 of new nurses and a majority of new health care workers are
10 educated at community colleges. Nearly eighty per cent of
11 firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical
12 technicians are credentialed at community colleges. And
13 ninety-five per cent of businesses and organizations that employ
14 community college graduates recommend community college
15 workforce education and training programs.

16 In Hawaii, enrollment in the community colleges has grown
17 by ten per cent in the past year, with the seven campuses

1 serving a record 28,591 students. Hawaii's community colleges
2 have been in the forefront of helping employers improve their
3 operations and overall efficiency through training programs.
4 For example, during the five months that the first time
5 supervisory training program was offered, over three hundred
6 thirty individuals participated in the program, saving
7 businesses \$71,000 through discounted tuition fees. And in
8 response to mass layoffs at Aloha Airlines, ATA, Molokai Ranch,
9 and Weyerhaeuser, \$70,000 was allocated from the community
10 college rapid response fund to help displaced workers. Eligible
11 for a one-time fifty per cent tuition scholarship (up to \$500
12 per displaced worker), eighty-four individuals took advantage of
13 this program to enhance their job skills during fall 2008, with
14 more expected to enroll in the spring 2009 courses.

15 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's community
16 colleges are poised to help both employees and employers prepare
17 to change the way they work. Employers will need to consider
18 downsizing, cross training, identifying efficiencies, and
19 developing new business models to stay afloat and to preserve as
20 many jobs as possible. Employees will need access to affordable
21 training and professional services that can be delivered in a
22 timely manner.

1 The purpose of this Act is to enhance the training capacity
2 of Hawaii's community colleges by establishing a skilled worker
3 and business development center to provide workforce training to
4 meet the rapidly evolving needs of both employers and employees.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established under program ID
6 (UOH 800), University of Hawaii community colleges, a skilled
7 worker and business development center to develop curriculum to
8 assist businesses and nonprofit organizations retrain and cross
9 train their workers to adapt to changing times and new
10 technology. The skilled worker and business development center
11 may be modeled after the Pacific center for advanced technology
12 training, which is a not-for-profit consortium of the University
13 of Hawaii community colleges.

14 In addition to providing workforce training, the skilled
15 worker and business development center shall include a two-fold
16 counseling component to provide:

- 17 (1) Assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations
18 that face difficult economic times or changes in their
19 industry; and
- 20 (2) Occupational and career counseling for displaced
21 workers or other individuals.

1 (b) There is established an advisory board for the skilled
2 worker and business development center, including but not
3 limited to, representatives of the:

4 (1) University of Hawaii community college system;

5 (2) Seven community college campuses;

6 (3) Department of education;

7 (4) County workforce investment boards;

8 (5) Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations;

9 (6) Hawai'i Community Foundation;

10 (7) Hawaii Business Roundtable Incorporated;

11 (8) Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;

12 (9) Small Business Administration; and

13 (10) United States armed forces in Hawaii.

14 (c) The skilled worker and business development center
15 shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
17 detailing the training and counseling programs, the numbers of
18 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals
19 participating in the center programs, including the use of both
20 Reed Act funds and other moneys in the rapid response fund.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the unemployment
22 trust fund from moneys deposited pursuant to section 383-123(b),

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1 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so much
2 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
3 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
4 2010-2011 to assist in the creation of the skilled worker and
5 business development center and the development of its skills-
6 based program, including curriculum design and counseling
7 services.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act;
10 provided that the funds shall be expended in conjunction with
11 the University of Hawaii through the rapid response fund
12 established under program ID (UOH 800), University of Hawaii
13 community colleges.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

Report Title:

Workforce Training; University of Hawaii Community Colleges;
Reed Act Funds; Appropriation

Description:

Enhances the training capacity of Hawaii's community colleges by establishing a skilled worker and business development center to provide workforce training to meet the rapidly evolving needs of both employers and employees; appropriates Reed Act funds.

(SD1)