
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the collapse of
2 national credit, housing, financial, and other market sectors
3 has culminated in the current national economic crisis, which
4 continues to have consequences on the local economy, including
5 significant losses in local construction, restaurant, and other
6 industries. The legislature further finds that solutions for
7 immediate relief will require unprecedented levels of
8 cooperation between state and local governments and between
9 public and private entities to realize bold yet productive
10 proposals.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
12 establishment of an emergency environmental workforce for short-
13 term employment for individuals who are unemployed or
14 underemployed due to the slow economic recovery. Individuals
15 willing to accept the challenge of an emergency environmental
16 workforce job will assist in the State's efforts to:

17 (1) Maintain and strengthen watersheds throughout the
18 State;



1 (2) Eradicate the miconia plant, feral coffee trees, and
2 other invasive plants; and

3 (3) Reduce coqui frog, coffee borer beetle, and fire ant
4 populations.

5 The legislature intends for the revenues generated by
6 general obligation bond authorizations and appropriations from
7 the general fund made by this Act to be released only after
8 approximately sixty-five per cent of the total appropriations
9 from various funds made by this Act have been released. The
10 legislature further intends for the director of finance to have
11 the discretion to determine when approximately sixty-five per
12 cent of the special and other fund appropriations have been made
13 in a manner that fulfills the purpose of this Act.

14 SECTION 2. There is established the emergency
15 environmental workforce to be attached to the research
16 corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative
17 purposes. The emergency environmental workforce shall:

18 (1) Employ as six-month contract employees approximately
19 five hundred to seven hundred fifty individuals who
20 were terminated from their jobs as a result of the
21 local economic downturn;



- 1 (2) Supplement the State's current services being provided
- 2 for the eradication of the miconia plant and other
- 3 invasive plants and the reduction of coqui frog,
- 4 coffee borer beetle, and fire ant populations; and
- 5 (3) Coordinate its efforts with the efforts of the
- 6 department of agriculture, the department of land and
- 7 natural resources, and the invasive species committees
- 8 of Hawaii.

9 SECTION 3. The research corporation of the University of
10 Hawaii shall:

- 11 (1) Together with the pacific cooperative studies unit of
- 12 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, develop a planning,
- 13 administration, implementation, and evaluation
- 14 strategy, including a program duration plan and a
- 15 budget for contract and administrative expenses for
- 16 the sums appropriated;
- 17 (2) Develop a recruitment and public information plan, in
- 18 consultation with private employers with workforces
- 19 that have been or that may be affected by layoffs
- 20 resulting from the economic downturn;
- 21 (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection
- 22 of emergency environmental workforce participants,



- 1 including physical examinations as necessary to
2 qualify applicants before final contract offers;
- 3 (4) Request that attorneys employed or retained by the
4 University of Hawaii prepare, on an expedited basis,
5 the necessary employment contracts to meet the
6 objectives of the emergency environmental workforce
7 program;
- 8 (5) Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,
9 the senate president, and the speaker of the house of
10 representatives every sixty days for the duration of
11 the emergency environmental workforce program; and
- 12 (6) Undertake all other necessary activities for emergency
13 environmental workforce program development and
14 implementation.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the special land
16 and development fund the sum of \$1,400,000 or so much thereof as
17 may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an
18 emergency environmental workforce to be administered by the
19 research corporation of the University of Hawaii.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
21 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this



1 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
2 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the forest and
4 wildlife resources fund within the special land and development
5 fund the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary
6 for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an emergency
7 environmental workforce to be administered by the research
8 corporation of the University of Hawaii.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
10 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
11 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
12 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

13 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the land
14 conservation fund the sum of \$2,250,000 or so much thereof as
15 may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an
16 emergency environmental workforce to be administered by the
17 research corporation of the University of Hawaii.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
19 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
20 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
21 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.



1 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the water resource
2 management fund the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as may be
3 necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an emergency
4 environmental workforce to be administered by the research
5 corporation of the University of Hawaii.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
7 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
8 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
9 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

10 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the natural area
11 reserve fund the sum of \$1,400,000 or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an emergency
13 environmental workforce to be administered by the research
14 corporation of the University of Hawaii.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
16 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
17 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
18 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

19 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the forest
20 stewardship fund the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may
21 be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish an emergency



1 environmental workforce to be administered by the research
2 corporation of the University of Hawaii.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
4 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
5 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
6 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

7 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the pest
8 inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund the sum of
9 \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2012-2013 to establish an emergency environmental workforce
11 to be administered by the research corporation of the University
12 of Hawaii.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
14 corporation of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this
15 Act; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior
16 approval of the pacific cooperative studies unit.

17 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to carry
20 out the purposes of this Act.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
22 corporation of the University of Hawaii; provided that no moneys



1 shall be expended without the prior approval of the pacific
2 cooperative studies unit.

3 SECTION 12. The director of finance is authorized to issue
4 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
6 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2012-2013
7 for the emergency environmental workforce to:

8 (1) Fence lands and easements in the state conservation
9 district to protect watershed lands; and

10 (2) Mitigate invasive species.

11 The appropriation made for the capital improvement projects
12 authorized by this section shall not lapse at the end of the
13 fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made; provided
14 that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June
15 30, 2014, shall lapse as of that date.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the research
17 corporation of the University of Hawaii; provided that no moneys
18 shall be expended without the prior approval of the pacific
19 cooperative studies unit.

20 SECTION 13. The moneys appropriated from the general fund
21 by section 11 of this Act and the revenues derived from the
22 general obligation bonds authorized by section 12 of this Act



1 shall be released and expended only when approximately sixty-
2 five per cent of the moneys appropriated from funds by sections
3 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of this Act have been authorized for
4 expenditure by the director of finance. For the purpose of
5 determining the monetary amount that approximates sixty-five per
6 cent of the moneys appropriated and allotted under sections 4,
7 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, the director of finance may aggregate the
8 amounts authorized for expenditure from those funds.

9 SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Environmental Workforce; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the emergency environmental workforce. Makes appropriations. (HB2250 HD1)

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