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# 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 threats to Hawaii's  
2 natural resources and watersheds, such as invasive species,  
3 require a rapid response to mitigate environmental damage and  
4 prevent far higher costs that may be needed if the threat is  
5 allowed to expand.

6           The purpose of this Act is to establish a special  
7 operations team, in place of the emergency environmental  
8 workforce, that is authorized to recruit a temporary workforce  
9 to respond to environmental emergencies.

10           SECTION 2. Act 4, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, Third  
11 Special Session, is amended by amending section 2 to read as  
12 follows:

13           "SECTION 2. (a) There is established [~~the emergency~~  
14 ~~environmental workforce to be attached to The Research~~  
15 ~~Corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative~~  
16 ~~purposes. The emergency environmental workforce shall:] a  
17 special operations team to be attached to the research  
18 corporation of the University of Hawaii for administrative~~



1 purposes that shall be responsible for responding to  
2 environmental emergencies. The special operations team shall  
3 provide environmental emergency response services including but  
4 not limited to:

5 (1) [~~Employ~~] Employing approximately four hundred to four  
6 hundred fifty individuals who were terminated from  
7 their jobs [~~after the September 11 tragedy~~] as a  
8 result of the local economic downturn. The  
9 individuals shall be employed as three-month  
10 [~~contract~~] employees;

11 (2) [~~Deploy~~] Deploying contract employees to all island  
12 mayors certifying a need for environmental clearance  
13 and eradication services to supplement current  
14 services being provided for the isolation of dengue  
15 fever, the eradication of the miconia plant and other  
16 invasive plants, and the reduction of coqui frog and  
17 fire ant populations; [~~and~~]

18 (3) [~~Coordinate~~] Coordinating its efforts with the efforts  
19 of the invasive species committee on each island[+];  
20 and



1       (4) Recruiting temporary emergency environmental workforce  
2       employees who are qualified to perform response  
3       services.

4       (b) The special operations team shall be chaired by the  
5       chairperson of the board of land and natural resources and shall  
6       include the following members:

7       (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
8       resources, or the chairperson's designee;

9       (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;

10       (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
11       chairperson's designee; and

12       (4) The mayor of each county, or a mayor's designee.

13       (c) All temporary emergency environmental workforce  
14       employees employed pursuant to this Act shall be subject to the  
15       research corporation of the University of Hawaii's policies and  
16       procedures relating to employment, except for any applicable  
17       unemployment insurance benefits pursuant to chapter 383, Hawaii  
18       Revised Statutes, which shall be the responsibility of the  
19       State."

20       SECTION 3. Act 4, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, Third  
21       Special Session, is amended by amending section 3 to read as  
22       follows:



1           "SECTION 3. [~~The Research Corporation~~] Upon a  
2 determination by the special operations team to respond to an  
3 environmental emergency, the research corporation of the  
4 University of Hawaii shall:

5           (1) Together with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit[~~-~~  
6 ~~develop~~]:

7           (A) Develop a planning, administration,  
8           implementation, and evaluation strategy,  
9           including a program duration plan and a budget  
10           for contract and administrative expenses for the  
11           sum appropriated; and

12           (B) Conduct interviews to select emergency  
13           environmental workforce employees who are  
14           qualified to perform response services;

15           (2) Consult with private employers with workforces, which  
16           have, or which may be, affected by layoffs from the  
17           economic downturn [~~as a result of the September 11~~  
18 ~~tragedy~~] to develop a recruitment and public  
19           information plan;

20           (3) Develop a strategy for the interviewing and selection  
21           of program participants;



- 1 (4) Work with island mayors requesting cleaning and
- 2 eradication services to administer physical
- 3 examinations, as may be necessary, to qualifying
- 4 applicants prior to final contract offers;
- 5 (5) Request that the attorneys employed or retained by the
- 6 University of Hawaii prepare the necessary employment
- 7 contracts to meet the objectives of the program on an
- 8 expedited basis;
- 9 (6) Submit review and assessment reports to the governor,
- 10 the senate president, and the house speaker every
- 11 sixty days for the duration of the program; and
- 12 (7) Undertake all other necessary activities for program
- 13 development and implementation."

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for  
 17 the recruitment and employment of temporary emergency  
 18 environmental workforce employees as determined necessary by the  
 19 special operations team.

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



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



**Report Title:**

Environmental Workforce; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a special operations team, in place of the emergency environmental workforce established by Act 4, SLH 2001, Third Special Session, that is authorized to recruit and employ temporary emergency environmental workforce employees to respond to environmental emergencies. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

