
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR DISPLACED WORKERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a college tuition
2 discount, either partial or full, is needed for displaced,
3 dislocated workers in Hawaii and that there is a need to protect
4 employees of unexpected and sudden mass layoffs or termination
5 resulting from a layoff.

6 The legislature further finds that a tuition relief package
7 could provide an incentive to displaced workers to attend
8 community college to retrain, and thus give displaced workers
9 the tools they need to get back to work.

10 There is precedent for this concept. In 2007, the
11 University of Hawaii community colleges, in cooperation with the
12 State's workforce investment board, created a special education
13 and training fund targeting displaced workers from Aloha
14 Airlines, ATA Airlines, Molokai Ranch, NCL America, and
15 Weyerhaeuser Corporation. This fund provided a one-time only
16 fifty per cent discount on the cost of tuition, up to a maximum
17 of \$500 per eligible laid-off employee, for those who were



1 inclined to begin or resume a college education. The University
2 of Hawaii community colleges pledged \$70,000 from its rapid
3 response fund, created in 2007 by the legislature. The
4 discounted education opportunities were set to expire on June
5 20, 2009 and were for eligible participants in the county where
6 one of the seven University of Hawaii community colleges deliver
7 courses. Similarly, the State of Washington also created a
8 dislocated worker program to provide retraining for a new job or
9 career. Washington's program includes tuition assistance,
10 financial aid, and career planning.

11 The purpose of this Act is to re-establish a displaced
12 worker education and training program, based on what the
13 legislature established in 2007, by requiring the University of
14 Hawaii community colleges and the State's workforce investment
15 board to resume its special education and training fund
16 targeting displaced workers.

17 SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii community colleges
18 shall re-establish its skilled worker and business development
19 center to develop curriculum to assist businesses and nonprofit
20 organizations retrain and crosstrain dislocated workers to adapt
21 to the economic downturn and new technology. The skilled worker



1 and business development center may be modeled after the Pacific
2 center for advanced technology training, which is a not-for-
3 profit consortium of the University of Hawaii community
4 colleges. For the purposes of this Act, "displaced worker"
5 means an individual who has been terminated as a result of a
6 mass layoff or plant closure.

7 (a) The skilled worker and business development center
8 shall provide workforce development programs, including:

9 (1) Facilitated self-help courses that work with
10 employees to reassess skill sets, obtain additional
11 training, and consider new fields of work following a
12 layoff or loss of employment for other reason;

13 (2) Affordable re-training and cross-training programs
14 to assist specific small business and nonprofit
15 organizations that are in the process of
16 reorganizing their business plan or structure;

17 (3) Specialized training courses to assist workers in
18 adapting to workplace changes, provided that the
19 necessity of the courses shall be supported by
20 empirical and statistical data; and

21 (4) Other permissible program services pursuant to the



1 Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933.

2 (b) In addition to providing workforce development, the
3 skilled worker and business development center shall include a
4 two-fold counseling component providing:

5 (1) Assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations
6 that face difficult economic times or changes in their
7 industry; and

8 (2) Occupational and career counseling for displaced
9 workers or other individuals.

10 (c) There is re-established an advisory board for the
11 skilled worker and business development center, which shall
12 include representatives from the:

13 (1) University of Hawaii community college system;

14 (2) Seven community college campuses;

15 (3) Department of education;

16 (4) County workforce investment boards;

17 (5) Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations;

18 (6) Hawai'i Community Foundation ;

19 (7) Hawaii Business Roundtable Incorporated;

20 (8) Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;

21 (9) Small Business Administration; and



1 (10) United States armed forces in Hawaii.

2 (d) The skilled worker and business development center
3 shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty
4 days prior to the convening of the 2017 regular session setting
5 forth, at minimum, the progress achieved regarding the
6 establishment and start-up of the skilled worker and business
7 development center; the development plan for the skilled worker
8 and business development center; funding options,
9 recommendations, and requirements for the skilled worker and
10 business development center and the specific programs thereunder
11 at the various community colleges. Funding options shall
12 include funds appropriated pursuant to section 383-123(b),
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes, other state funds, private funds,
14 federal grants, and self-generating income of the University of
15 Hawaii.

16 (e) Thereafter, the skilled worker and business development
17 center shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
19 detailing the training and counseling programs, the numbers of
20 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals
21 participating in the center programs, and the usage of other



1 available funds and other moneys from other sources used for the
2 skilled worker and business development center.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the
4 unemployment trust fund from moneys deposited pursuant to
5 section 383-123(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of
6 \$, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2016-2017 to assist in the establishment and start-up of the
8 skilled worker and business development center and the
9 development of its skills-based program, including curriculum
10 design and counseling services; provided, however, that
11 \$ shall be provided to each community college of the
12 University of Hawaii system to implement skills-based programs
13 deemed appropriate by each community college consistent with the
14 skilled worker and business development center.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act;
17 provided that the funds shall be expended in conjunction with
18 the University of Hawaii through an appropriate fund.

19 To the extent that moneys appropriated pursuant to
20 subsection (a) are not permitted to be used to effectuate this



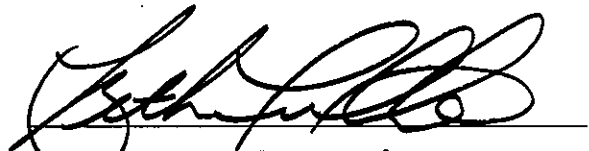
1 Act, the University of Hawaii may also expend moneys previously
2 appropriated to it by the legislature and additional revenues
3 generated.

4 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
5 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
6 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
7 conflicting part of this Act is inoperative solely to the extent
8 of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
9 affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the
10 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
11 concerned.

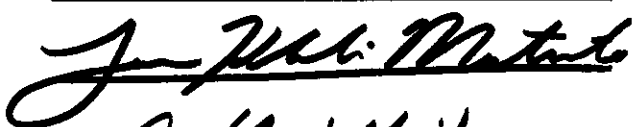
12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 193D

Report Title:

Displaced Workers; Education and Training Program.

Description:

Re-establishes the State's displaced worker education and training program, to assist displaced workers who have been terminated as a result of a mass layoff or plant closure.

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

