

MAR 09 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE GREEN JOBS CORPS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, ALLEVIATE THE UNEMPLOYMENT IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS CLEAN ENERGY GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
2 caused an unprecedented disruption in the State's economy that
3 resulted in the State's unemployment rate, which was one of the
4 lowest in the country, to surge to one of the highest, thereby
5 creating a need for localized and diverse workforce development
6 initiatives; and
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8 WHEREAS, the current standstill in the tourism and
9 hospitality industry, the largest industry in Hawaii, due to the
10 COVID-19 pandemic represents a unique opportunity for the State
11 to build a more resilient, equitable, and diversified economy;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, to support a comprehensive economic recovery and
15 continuing growth, the State must invest in its community and
16 emerging economic sectors to avail residents educational and
17 training opportunities to succeed; and
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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii has committed to meeting the energy needs
20 of its people in a safe, reliable, economical and
21 environmentally sound manner, as evidenced by Act 97, Session
22 Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a renewable portfolio
23 standards target of one hundred percent renewable electric
24 energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, which
25 requires replacement of all cesspools by 2050; and Act 15,
26 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which established a statewide zero
27 emissions clean economy target to sequester more atmospheric
28 carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by 2045; and
29



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1 WHEREAS, after the Great Depression, the United States
2 implemented the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program from
3 1933 to 1942, as a major part of President Franklin D.
4 Roosevelt's New Deal, which provided Americans with work related
5 to the conservation and development of natural resources to
6 alleviate the economic distress, which led to a greater public
7 awareness and appreciation of the nation's natural resources and
8 the continued need for a carefully planned, comprehensive
9 national program for the protection and development of natural
10 resources; and

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12 WHEREAS, local efforts to reduce energy dependence and slow
13 the threat of global warning have the potential to create
14 significant business opportunities, as evidenced by the Oakland
15 Green Job Corps, which is a program created in 2008 by the City
16 of Oakland to meet the needs of local green businesses by
17 recruiting and providing its residents with world-class job
18 training, environmental education, and employment opportunities
19 in the green sector, including but not limited to installation
20 of solar panels on rooftops, weatherizing of homes to save
21 energy and lower utility bills, and construction of new green
22 buildings; and

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24 WHEREAS, the creation of a statewide Jobs Corps program
25 similar to the CCC and the Oakland Green Job Corps would provide
26 residents of Hawaii who were economically impacted by the
27 COVID-19 pandemic with opportunities to receive the necessary
28 education and training for employment opportunities in the
29 resiliency and green sectors, such as local agriculture,
30 conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool
31 conversions, and technology industries; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Aloha Connects Innovation program of the
34 Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and KUPU 'Aina Corps, two
35 workforce development initiatives launched by the State with
36 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds, are
37 potential programs to integrate and build upon in establishing a
38 statewide Jobs Corps program; and

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40 WHEREAS, the report "From Today to Tomorrow: A Talent
41 Roadmap to Support Economic Recovery in Hawai'i" produced in
42 collaboration by the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative, Hawai'i



1 Community Foundation, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Strada
2 Education Network, Jobs for the Future, Hawai'i P-20 and the
3 Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii provides an aligned framework to
4 establish a statewide Jobs Corps program by outlining a talent
5 development strategy through expanding work-based learning,
6 retraining, credentialing programs, industry-driven solutions,
7 and partnerships; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Business,
13 Economic Development, and Tourism are requested to work together
14 to establish a statewide Green Jobs Corps program to support
15 economic diversification, alleviate the unemployment impacts of
16 the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist the State in meeting its clean
17 energy goals; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workforce Development
20 Council and Hawaii State Energy Office are requested to advise
21 in the effort to establish a statewide Green Jobs Corps program;
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state lands classified as
25 conservation district be considered as properties to manage and
26 steward through workforce development initiatives; and


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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
29 Economic Development, and Tourism and Department of Labor and
30 Industrial Relations are requested to identify public-private
31 partnerships and outline components of a statewide Green Jobs
32 Corps program that focuses on resiliency and green sector jobs
33 and submit a report of their findings and recommendations,
34 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
35 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
36 of 2023; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
3 of Labor and Industrial Relations; Director of Business,
4 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of the Board
5 of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett J. Mizulach", written over a horizontal line.