
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISLOCATED SUGAR WORKERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the imminent
2 transition of thirty-six thousand acres of farmland on Maui from
3 sugar production to diversified agriculture will powerfully
4 affect the State's economy and permanently alter Maui's
5 workforce environment. Layoffs of sugar workers are expected to
6 begin in March 2016 and continue until all six hundred seventy-
7 five workers are laid off by the end of the year. While many of
8 the agriculture-related jobs lost due to cessation of sugar
9 production will be restored once diversified agricultural
10 production begins, they will require different skill sets and
11 even those that are eventually restored will not be available
12 until full diversified agriculture production is underway, which
13 may take several years.

14 The legislature finds that retraining Maui's sugar
15 workforce is critical to the State's economy and will help
16 mitigate the effects of mass job loss on surrounding businesses
17 and the community.



1 The purpose of this Act is to assist the department of
2 labor and industrial relations in providing job training and
3 retraining to dislocated sugar workers by directing the
4 department to seek all possible assistance from the federal
5 Department of Labor and appropriating funds for the department
6 of labor and industrial relations' Maui workforce development
7 division office.

8 SECTION 2. The department of labor and industrial
9 relations shall seek all available assistance from the federal
10 Department of Labor to conduct workforce development, worker
11 training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance
12 programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar
13 production on Maui. The department shall pursue any grant
14 funding opportunities that may be available from the federal
15 Department of Labor, including from the Employment and Training
16 Administration, and may provide any matching funds required for
17 grant eligibility.

18 The department, through the workforce development
19 division's Maui office, shall assist and coordinate with the
20 Maui county office of economic development to implement
21 assistance programs pursuant to this Act.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
4 workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other
5 dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by
6 the cessation of sugar production on Maui; provided that funds
7 appropriated may be used as matching or leverage funds required
8 as a condition of eligibility for federal or other assistance
9 grants and for coordination with and assistance to the Maui
10 county office of economic development.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



Report Title:

Workforce Development; Dislocated Workers; Maui County;
Appropriation

Description:

Directs and appropriates funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui. (HB2186 HD1)

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