
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, prior to the
2 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Hawaii had one of
3 the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. The COVID-19
4 pandemic has placed tens of thousands of Hawaii residents out of
5 work, and the current state unemployment rate is among the
6 nation's highest. The department of labor and industrial
7 relations reported that the State's seasonally adjusted
8 unemployment rate, which was 2.7 per cent in September 2019,
9 compared to the national rate of 3.5 per cent, surged to
10 15.1 per cent in September 2020, compared to the national rate
11 of 7.9 per cent. In addition, tourism, the State's largest
12 industry, has dropped considerably because of the COVID-19
13 pandemic, providing a unique opportunity for the State to build
14 a more resilient, equitable, and diversified economy. The
15 effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have also highlighted the need
16 for increased and diverse workforce development initiatives in
17 the State.



1 The legislature further finds that models exist for the
2 creation of such initiatives to support the State's ailing
3 workforce. The Civilian Conservation Corps program that was
4 implemented as a major part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's
5 New Deal after the Great Depression was a federal work relief
6 program that helped employ Americans on conservation projects,
7 alleviated economic distress, and supported the protection and
8 responsible development of natural resources and agricultural
9 land use. The federal Job Corps program is a no-cost education
10 and career technical training program administered by the United
11 States Department of Labor that helps young people ages sixteen
12 to twenty-four improve the quality of their lives through career
13 technical and academic training. The Hawaii job corps center
14 supports the federal Job Corps program's mission to teach
15 eligible young people the skills they need to become employable
16 and independent, place them in meaningful jobs, or further their
17 education.

18 The legislature recognizes that the State has committed to
19 meeting the energy needs of its people in a safe, reliable,
20 economical, and environmentally sound manner, as evidenced by
21 Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, which established a



1 renewable portfolio standards target of one hundred per cent
2 renewable electric energy by 2045; Act 125, Session Laws of
3 Hawaii 2017, which requires replacement of all cesspools
4 by 2050; and Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which
5 established a statewide zero emissions clean economy target to
6 sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than
7 emitted by 2045. The legislature finds that, to support a
8 comprehensive economic recovery, the State must invest in its
9 community and emerging economic sectors and provide its
10 residents with the educational and training opportunities to
11 succeed. The creation of a state-administered green job corps
12 program would provide Hawaii residents who were economically
13 impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with opportunities to learn
14 new skills and increase their prospects of employment within the
15 resiliency and green sectors, including local agriculture,
16 conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool
17 conversion, and technology industries.

18 The legislature also finds that the Aloha Connects
19 Innovation program of the Economic Development Alliance of
20 Hawaii and Kupu 'Āina Corps, two workforce development
21 initiatives launched by the State with federal Coronavirus Aid,



1 Relief, and Economic Security Act funds are potential programs
2 that could be integrated and built upon in establishing a state-
3 administered green job corps program. The State can also
4 capitalize on the report titled "From Today to Tomorrow: A
5 Talent Roadmap to Support Economic Recovery in Hawai'i" produced
6 by the Hawaii Executive Collaborative, which provides a
7 framework to establish a state-administered green job corps
8 program by outlining a talent development strategy through
9 expansion of work-based learning, retraining, credentialing
10 programs, industry-driven solutions, and partnerships.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Allow the governor to designate the department of land
13 and natural resources to administer or enter into
14 agreements to administer a green job youth corps
15 program to help address the unemployment impacts of
16 the COVID-19 pandemic and support work and training
17 opportunities for young adults and economic
18 diversification; and
- 19 (2) Appropriate American Rescue Plan Act funds for this
20 purpose.



1 SECTION 2. Section 193-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[+]§193-32[+] **Administration.** To carry out the program
4 authorized by this part, the governor may:

- 5 (1) Enter into an agreement or agreements, or designate
6 the department of land and natural resources, or any
7 other state department or departments as the state
8 agency or agencies to enter into an agreement or
9 agreements, with the proper authorities of the United
10 States;
- 11 (2) Designate the department of land and natural
12 resources, or any state department or departments to
13 design programs to provide healthful outdoor training
14 and employment for young persons and to advance the
15 conservation, development, and management of natural
16 resources and recreational areas, in accordance with
17 the applicable federal law; provided that the
18 designated department or departments may also adopt
19 appropriate rules under chapter 91 to carry out the
20 programs so designed; [~~and~~]



1 (3) Designate the department of land and natural resources
2 to administer or enter into an agreement or agreements
3 for the administration of a green job youth corps
4 program that provides temporary work and training
5 opportunities in one or more of the following fields:
6 natural resource management, agriculture,
7 conservation, renewable energy, or other
8 sustainability professions. The program shall
9 prioritize work and training opportunities for young
10 adults who are between twenty years of age and
11 forty years of age and economic diversification;
12 provided that the department of land and natural
13 resources shall partner with organizations that have
14 experience providing similar programming in the state;
15 and

16 [~~3~~] (4) Defray one-half of all costs incurred with
17 respect to the programs or any other proportion of the
18 costs of the programs, which may be required by the
19 applicable laws of the United States, out of any
20 moneys appropriated to the department or departments



1 designated to participate in the programs, without
2 regard to the original purpose of the appropriations."

3 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
4 shall submit a report to the legislature on its progress in
5 implementing this Act no later than twenty days prior to the
6 convening of the regular session of 2022.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the funds received
8 by the State from the American Rescue Plan Act, Public
9 Law 117-2, section 9901, the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 for
11 salaries only for up to one thousand program participant
12 positions; provided that all unexpended and unencumbered
13 balances of the appropriation made by this section as of the
14 close of business on November 1, 2021, shall lapse.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Green Job Youth Corps Program; DLNR; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Allows the governor to designate the department of land and natural resources to administer or enter into agreements for the administration of a green job youth corps program that provides temporary work and training opportunities to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. Requires a report to the legislature. Appropriates American Rescue Plan Act funds. (CD1)

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