
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii stands as the
2 most isolated population center globally, situated approximately
3 two thousand four hundred miles from the closest landmass, the
4 mainland United States. Given this geographical isolation,
5 efficient transportation is critical for the survival of the
6 State's population and its tourism industry. Commercial drivers
7 license (CDL) holders play a pivotal role in moving shipments
8 from docks and airports to shelves, as storage space is limited
9 within the State.

10 The legislature further finds that Hawaii grapples with a
11 shortage of CDL drivers, a challenge mirrored on the continental
12 United States. The nationwide deficit of truck drivers is
13 reaching alarming proportions, with an immediate need for over
14 eighty thousand truck drivers. If current trends persist, the
15 shortage is projected to double to one hundred sixty thousand by
16 2030, as warned by Haley Fenton of Western Pacific Truck School.



1 The legislature also finds that this scarcity in the number
2 of CDL drivers directly impacts the State's education system,
3 where over two hundred additional CDL drivers are required to
4 fully cover school bus routes statewide, causing some students
5 to ride public transit. To address this growing crisis, it is
6 imperative to develop and implement a strategic plan that
7 encourages employment in the CDL license field to ensure the
8 State's economic and social well-being.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a working
10 group within the department of transportation to address the
11 State's current and future needs for CDL drivers.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a working group
13 within the department of transportation. The working group
14 shall:

15 (1) Engage both public and private sectors with the goal
16 of increasing awareness of the ground transportation
17 industry and its' workforce needs; and

18 (2) Interface with key stakeholders to create and develop
19 possible career paths for qualified CDL drivers,
20 prioritizing filling vacancies within the department



1 of education, with the ultimate goal of filling
2 vacancies within the private and public sectors.

3 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
4 members:

5 (1) The director of transportation, or the director's
6 designee, who shall serve as the co-chair of the
7 working group;

8 (2) One member from the department of education workforce
9 development branch, who shall serve as the co-chair of
10 the working group;

11 (3) A campus coordinator from the office of workforce
12 development at the university of Hawaii community
13 colleges, in charge of a workforce development program
14 with CDL training;

15 (4) One member from the department of labor and industrial
16 relations workforce development council;

17 (5) One member representing the CDL licensing offices of
18 the counties; and

19 (6) One member representing the workforce development
20 boards of the counties.



1 (c) The director of transportation shall invite
2 representatives from the following organizations to serve as
3 members of the working group:

4 (1) Two members representing the Hawaii Transportation
5 Association;

6 (2) One member representing the labor union representing
7 CDL drivers; and

8 (3) One member representing a local non-profit
9 organization currently providing CDL training.

10 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its
11 findings and recommendations to address the shortage of CDL
12 drivers in the State, including any proposed legislation, to the
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the regular session of 2025.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its
16 approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. A.', is written over a horizontal line.

S.B. NO. 2943

Report Title:

DOT; Workforce Development; CDL Drivers; Working Group; Report

Description:

Establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of CDL drivers in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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