



U.S. House of Representatives  
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Serving Hawaii's 2nd District

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# Renewable Energy Partnerships Act

*A Proposal to Help Train Hawaii's New Green Jobs Workforce*

## Hawaii's Need for a Green Jobs Workforce

**Hawaii is currently almost 90% dependent on imported oil.** The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative has set a goal of reducing our dependency to be 70 percent reliant on renewable energy by 2030. Accomplishing this goal will require a greener workforce.

**Hawaii's green jobs sector is growing much faster** than the overall private workforce. According to a recent survey, Hawaii businesses predict that the number of green jobs will expand from 11,145 in 2010 to as high as 22,766 by 2018.

**Community colleges play a crucial role** in training Hawaii's growing green workforce. Community colleges and trade schools fulfill 62% of green jobs' education and training requirements.<sup>1</sup>

## The Renewable Energy Partnerships Act

Congresswoman Hirono's bill would create a U.S. Department of Energy grant program to support community college partnerships in renewable energy job training.

**Community college grantees** would need to partner with:

- a 4-year degree granting institution AND
- EITHER a business OR
- A nonprofit organization WITH a labor organization.

**Additional partners** could also include a state educational agency, other public agency, National Laboratory, or community-based organization.

**Grant uses** could include:

- professional development and training for teachers;
- purchase, rental, or leasing of educational equipment and materials;
- facilities improvement for education and training experiences;
- development of instructional programs and practical application;
- recruitment and retention of new faculty;
- encouraging collaboration between faculty and industry partners;
- student recruitment; OR
- assessment of the grant's effectiveness.

**Federal grants of up to \$1 million** could be no more than 40% of the partnership

**Sharing best practices:** Grantees' curricula, planning documents, and outcome evaluations would be shared online so other partnerships could learn best practices.

<sup>1</sup> "Hawaii's Green Workforce will Become Greener." Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Research and Statistics Office, September 30, 2011. [https://www.hiwi.org/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/HI\\_green\\_workforce\\_will\\_become\\_greener.pdf](https://www.hiwi.org/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/HI_green_workforce_will_become_greener.pdf).