
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Renewable energy resources offer Hawaii
2 important economic, environmental, and energy security benefits,
3 especially since Hawaii's dependency on petroleum is the highest
4 in the nation, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of the
5 state's energy needs. This high petroleum dependency makes
6 consumers extremely vulnerable to any oil embargo, supply
7 disruption, international market dysfunction, and many other
8 factors beyond Hawaii's control.

9 Recognizing the importance and economic and environmental
10 benefits of increasing energy self-sufficiency, over the past
11 four years, the legislature and the department of business,
12 economic development, and tourism have committed to energy
13 objectives geared toward achieving dependable, efficient, and
14 economical statewide energy systems, increased self-sufficiency,
15 greater energy security, and reduction of greenhouse gas
16 emissions.

17 Act 272, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, recognized the
18 economic, environmental, and fuel diversity benefits of



1 renewable energy resources and the need to encourage the
2 establishment of a market for renewable energy in Hawaii using
3 the state's renewable energy resources. Act 240, Session Laws
4 of Hawaii 2006, provided a framework for energy self-
5 sufficiency. The State has also committed to a renewable energy
6 standard that requires 20 per cent of electricity sold to be
7 generated from renewable resources by the end of 2020 and has
8 sought to encourage private sector development of renewable
9 energy projects.

10 However, renewable energy projects are often complex,
11 large-scale undertakings requiring a number of permits. The
12 process for obtaining the necessary permits for renewable energy
13 projects and developments and the process for meeting state,
14 county, and federal regulations has, for decades, been described
15 as overly time-consuming, cumbersome, onerous, and costly. In
16 fact, the "Hawaii Integrated Energy Policy Report" of 1991 found
17 that the permit and approval process required for the
18 development and siting of energy facilities for a single project
19 can take up to seven years to complete. Thus, the inefficiency
20 of the permitting and development process acts as a barrier to
21 meeting Hawaii's renewable energy goals.



1 Understanding that renewable energy projects can provide
2 substantial and long-term benefits to the state and that
3 development of renewable energy projects would further state
4 policies of developing indigenous renewable energy resources and
5 decreasing Hawaii's dependency on imported fossil fuels, the
6 legislature finds that there is a need to streamline the
7 permitting process to provide predictability and to encourage
8 private companies to commit the substantial amounts of capital,
9 time, and effort necessary to develop such projects. To these
10 ends, the legislature also recognizes that investment in
11 additional personnel is essential.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
13 establish a full-time, permanent renewable energy facilitator
14 position in the department of business, economic development,
15 and tourism.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
17 of business, economic development, and tourism one full-time
18 equivalent permanent renewable energy facilitator position to
19 facilitate the efficient permitting of renewable energy
20 projects.



1 (b) The specific duties and responsibilities of the
2 renewable energy facilitator shall include but not be limited to
3 the following:

4 (1) Compilation of current information regarding all
5 county, state, and federal permits and land use
6 provisions that may be required for approval of a
7 renewable energy project, including statutes,
8 ordinances, federal regulations, rules, processes,
9 responsible agencies, contact information, and
10 websites, and categorization of that information by
11 type of renewable energy technology and county. The
12 renewable energy facilitator shall provide access to
13 this information in both printed and Internet-based
14 forms;

15 (2) Development of a website to disseminate all state,
16 county, and federal permitting and land use
17 information relevant to permitting of renewable energy
18 projects;

19 (3) Development of online resources, as practical,
20 including:

21 (A) An online permit assistance system that includes
22 project questionnaires, an environmental permit



- 1 handbook, permit process schematics, and fact
2 sheets; and
- 3 (B) A one-stop electronic permitting service for
4 environmental permits;
- 5 (4) Establishment and maintenance of a one-stop service
6 center for call-in or walk-in assistance;
- 7 (5) Renewable energy project facilitation, as requested,
8 including convening and facilitation of the initial
9 meeting of project applicants with permitting agencies
10 and continuing coordination through project approval;
- 11 (6) Identification of permitting efficiency opportunities;
- 12 (7) Development of a comprehensive permitting plan for
13 project applicants, including multiple permits to
14 facilitate interagency coordination and efficiency;
- 15 (8) Reviewing and recommending modifications to Hawaii's
16 permitting system, including the siting council
17 approach; provided that reviews shall include
18 coordination and validation of recommendations by
19 stakeholder agencies; and
- 20 (9) Effective consultation and collaboration with all
21 permitting agencies and land use agencies to ensure
22 that the position promotes permit efficiency from the



1 perspective of the project developer and affected
2 agencies.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
6 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
7 renewable energy facilitator position in the department of
8 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
9 section 2 of this Act.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
12 this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Energy Resources; Renewable Energy; DBEDT

Description:

Appropriates funds for a renewable energy facilitator position within the department of business, economic development, and tourism. Effective 7/1/2020. (HB2505 HD2)

