
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii faces a wide
2 range of geological issues, including coastal erosion, limited
3 ground and surface water, rock falls and landslides,
4 earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, depleted rock aggregate
5 resources, and geothermal energy. Hawaii's activities related
6 to these geological issues are spread among a variety of state
7 and county agencies, such as the department of land and natural
8 resources' commission on water resource management and the
9 office of conservation and coastal lands, the department of
10 health, and the county water supply departments. These state
11 and county agencies serve specific purposes for their respective
12 agencies, but this potentially may leave gap in efforts to
13 collect and analyze geologic data on issues of importance to the
14 State.

15 The legislature further finds that many mainland states
16 have a geological survey: a state agency that creates,
17 interprets, and disseminates applied earth science information
18 to address societal needs. However, Hawaii is one of only two



1 states that have never received federal funds to perform
2 geological studies. The legislature further finds that a Hawaii
3 state geological survey could compete for such federal funds and
4 provide a broader range of geological information.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii
6 geological survey to act as a centralized source for the study
7 and collection of data on geologic hazards, including but not
8 limited to earthquakes, coastal erosion and flooding, flash
9 flooding, rock falls, landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism,
10 geologic resources, and other geologic issues, including but not
11 limited to groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying, sand and
12 gravel mining, geothermal energy, reef management, wetland and
13 dune management, and beach and shoreline management.

14 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
15 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
16 as follows:

17 "CHAPTER

18 HAWAII GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

19 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

20 "Board" means the board of land and natural resources.

21 "Department" means the department of land and natural
22 resources.



1 "Survey" means the Hawaii geological survey.

2 § -2 **Establishment.** (a) There is established the
3 Hawaii geological survey, to be placed within the department of
4 land and natural resources for administrative purposes, pursuant
5 to section 26-35.

6 (b) The state geologist shall be appointed by the board,
7 and shall serve as director of the survey.

8 § -3 **Duties and responsibilities.** (a) The survey shall:

9 (1) Assist and advise state and county governmental
10 agencies and state educational institutions on
11 geologic and earth science subjects, including but not
12 limited to geologic hazards, earthquakes, coastal
13 erosion and flooding, flash flooding, rock falls,
14 landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism, geologic
15 resources, groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying,
16 sand and gravel mining, geothermal energy, reef
17 management, wetland and dune management, and beach and
18 shoreline management;

19 (2) Collect and distribute reliable data and information
20 regarding the geological issues, resources, and
21 hazards within the State;



1 (3) Survey the geology of the State, including mineral
2 occurrences and the ores of metals, energy resources,
3 industrial minerals and rocks, mineral-bearing waters,
4 and surface and ground water resources, with special
5 reference to their economic contents, values, uses,
6 kind, and availability in order to facilitate their
7 economic use;

8 (4) Determine and investigate areas of geologic, oceanic,
9 and topographic hazards that could affect the safety
10 of, or cause economic loss to, residents of the State
11 or visitors:

12 (5) Assist state and county agencies in their planning,
13 zoning, and building regulation functions by
14 publishing maps, delineating special earthquake risk
15 zones, flood zones, rockslide areas, and other
16 geological and ocean hazard risk zones; and, at the
17 request of state or county agencies, review the siting
18 of critical facilities;

19 (6) Cooperate with state and county agencies, quasi-
20 governmental agencies, federal agencies, schools of
21 higher education, and others in fields of mutual
22 concern, which may include field investigations and

1 preparation, publication, and distribution of reports
2 and maps;

3 (7) Study and analyze other scientific, economic, or
4 aesthetic problems as, in the judgment of the board,
5 should be undertaken by the survey to serve the needs
6 of the State and to support the development of natural
7 resources and utilization of land and ocean resources
8 within the State;

9 (8) Prepare, publish, distribute, and sell maps, reports,
10 and bulletins, embodying the work accomplished by the
11 survey, directly or in collaboration with others, and
12 collect and prepare exhibits of the geological and
13 mineral resources of this State and interpret their
14 significance;

15 (9) Collect, maintain, and preserve data and information
16 in order to accomplish the purposes of this chapter
17 and act as a repository for information concerning the
18 geology of this State; and

19 (10) Seek federal grants, loans, or participation in
20 federal programs, and, in accordance with applicable
21 federal program guidelines, administer federally



1 funded state programs related to the purposes of this
2 chapter.

3 (b) The survey may undertake joint projects with private
4 entities if:

5 (1) The action is approved by the board;

6 (2) The projects are not inconsistent with the State's
7 objectives; and

8 (3) The results of the projects are available to the
9 public.

10 (c) Subject to the authority granted to the department,
11 the survey may enter into cooperative agreements with the
12 entities specified in subsection (a)(6) if approved by the
13 board, and may accept or commit allocated or budgeted funds in
14 connection with those agreements.

15 § -4 Rules. The board shall adopt rules in accordance
16 with chapter 91 for the purposes of this section."

17 SECTION 3. Section 225M-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

19 "(b) The statewide geospatial information and data
20 integration special fund shall be used to help defray the cost
21 of, including but not limited to the following:



1 (1) Programs and activities to implement this chapter,
 2 including the provision of state funds to match
 3 federal funds from the United States Geological Survey
 4 or other federal departments[+]. The office of
 5 planning shall consult and coordinate its efforts with
 6 the Hawaii geological survey, as appropriate; and

7 (2) Operating costs of the statewide planning and
 8 geographic information system, including acquisition
 9 and maintenance of hardware or software necessary to
 10 implement this chapter, acquisition and maintenance of
 11 geospatial and other data, application development,
 12 training, and other products or services of general
 13 benefit to the statewide geospatial information and
 14 data integration program and its stakeholders."

15 SECTION 4. Section 304A-1502, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended to read as follows:

17 "[+]§304A-1502 []-~~State geophysicists.~~ Staff. The staff
 18 of the geophysics and planetology institute shall include a
 19 specialist qualified in geology and a specialist qualified in
 20 volcanology, or a specialist qualified in both fields [~~to be~~
 21 ~~designated as state geologist and state volcanologist or state~~
 22 ~~geologist and volcanologist, as appropriate)~~], whose duties



1 shall include consultation with state officials, departments,
2 and agencies concerning possible applications of these fields
3 and research desirable to facilitate such applications. [~~Other~~
4 ~~state geophysicists may be designated as appropriate in the~~
5 ~~opinion of the director and the board of regents.~~]

6 The [~~state~~] geophysicists may undertake applied research
7 required in their respective fields by state officials,
8 departments, and agencies, but their personal conduct of the
9 applied research may be limited by the director, to such an
10 extent as, in the director's opinion, is necessary to ensure the
11 conduct of fundamental research and training required by the
12 long-range interests of the State."

13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
16 the purpose of establishing the Hawaii geological survey,
17 including the hiring of necessary staff.

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

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



H.B. NO. 2604

1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2008



Report Title:

Hawaii Geological Survey

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii geological survey within the department of land and natural resources.

