

JAN 23 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii county
2 residents spend a considerable portion of their income on
3 energy. According to the 2007 report, *Analysis and*
4 *Recommendations for the Hawaii County Energy Sustainable Plan,*
5 prepared by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental
6 Studies, a typical Hawaii county household may spend nearly
7 \$5,000 per year on gasoline and electricity. In 2005, the
8 county spent an estimated \$580,000,000 on energy, including
9 electricity, gasoline, diesel, gas utilities, and aviation fuel.
10 The county has a very high cost of living, where its electricity
11 rate is more than three times the national average, currently at
12 31.04 cents per kilowatt-hour, and gasoline prices are amongst
13 the highest in the nation, currently at \$3.40 per gallon.

14 In 2007, county energy expenditures were projected to
15 increase over thirty per cent to an estimated \$750,000,000 due
16 to increased energy prices and higher demand. This amount is
17 projected to grow to \$850,000,000 in 2008. In 2007, energy



1 expenditures for Hawaii county accounted for an estimated
2 sixteen per cent of the gross county product of \$4,600,000,000.
3 In the past decade, energy expenditures for the whole United
4 States was typically between six and eight per cent of the gross
5 national domestic product, which amounts to less than half the
6 proportion of what Hawaii county spends on energy costs. This
7 financial drain is compounded dramatically in east Hawaii, where
8 unemployment, temporary assistance for needy families, and food
9 stamp benefit recipients number the highest in the State.

10 To take advantage of the current renewable energy drive,
11 the Hawaii county economic opportunity council has proposed to
12 establish a pioneering renewable energy project that will create
13 new jobs. The project will establish an assembly plant to
14 fabricate components to build rechargeable, battery-powered
15 automobiles, or vehicles operated without an internal combustion
16 engine, gasoline tank, or radiator that will run silently at a
17 speed of sixty miles per hour, and will require a battery
18 replacement only once every one hundred and twenty miles. The
19 project shall also assemble three-kilowatt-hour electric power
20 storage batteries that will incorporate the rechargeable battery
21 and solar thermal energy that will simultaneously provide power
22 and hot water for household use. The Hawaii county economic



1 opportunity council has been granted a license to assemble the
2 storage battery units in Hawaii.

3 The project will create twenty-five new fabricator,
4 assembler, and installer jobs during the first twelve-month
5 period, six administrative staff positions, one plant supervisor
6 position, and an additional twenty-five plant workers by the end
7 of the second year. Hiring practices shall prioritize the
8 hiring of persons who are receiving unemployment benefits and
9 who are work-fare eligible.

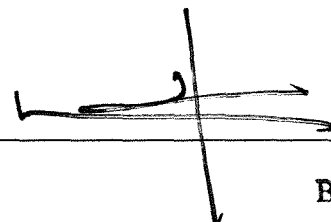
10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
13 Hawaii county economic opportunity council to establish a
14 renewable energy project in Hawaii county to build components
15 for rechargeable, battery-powered automobiles.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
17 Hawaii through a contract with the Hawaii county economic
18 opportunity council for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

20

INTRODUCED BY: _____



By Request



Report Title:

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the Hawaii county economic opportunity council to establish a renewable energy project to build components for rechargeable, battery-powered automobiles.

