

JAN 21 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Following the 2009 legislative session, the
2 chairs of the senate committee on economic development and
3 technology and the house committee on economic revitalization,
4 business and military affairs convened a technology caucus work
5 group to bring together industry stakeholders and interested
6 policymakers to develop recommendations for legislation to
7 enhance Hawaii's struggling economy. The work group provided a
8 forum to review the current status of Hawaii's
9 science/technology industry, identify state or county actions
10 that impede long-term growth and expansion of technology
11 companies, and develop recommendations to address these
12 impediments. The work group also identified best practices
13 supporting the growth and development of science/technology
14 industries in other jurisdictions to aid in developing proposed
15 suggestions for future legislation.

16 The legislature finds that the processing of renewable
17 energy project permits may be delayed if the permitting agency



1 requests additional information before accepting an application
2 for processing. Currently, no deadline for the acceptance of a
3 permit application exists, and requests to supply further
4 information have led to delays of weeks, or months in some
5 cases, of permits for renewable energy projects.

6 The purpose of this Act is to implement recommendations of
7 the technology caucus work group by establishing a specified
8 time for acceptance of the permit application for renewable
9 energy projects if the application meets the minimum content
10 requirements specified by the agency. Any legitimate needs for
11 additional information can be requested by the agency during the
12 analysis it conducts after an application has been officially
13 accepted for processing.

14 SECTION 2. Section 46-19.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **"[+]§46-19.4 Priority permitting process for renewable**
17 **energy projects. [+]** All agencies shall provide priority
18 handling and processing for all county permits required for
19 renewable energy projects. A permit application that fulfills
20 the minimum content requirements established by the agency in
21 the agency's applicable permit statutes, ordinances,
22 regulations, or rules shall be accepted for processing within



1 ten working days of the date the permit application was received
2 by the agency.

3 For purposes of this section, "agencies" means any
4 executive department, independent commission, board, bureau,
5 office, or other establishment of a county, or any quasi-public
6 institution that is supported in whole or in part by county
7 funds."

8 SECTION 3. Section 196-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "[+]§196-1.5 **Priority permitting process for renewable**
11 **energy projects.**[+] All agencies shall provide priority
12 handling and processing for all state permits required for
13 renewable energy projects. A permit application that fulfills
14 the minimum content requirements established by the agency in
15 the agency's applicable permit statutes, ordinances,
16 regulations, or rules shall be accepted for processing within
17 ten working days of the date the permit application was received
18 by the agency.

19 For purposes of this section, "agencies" means any
20 executive department, independent commission, board, bureau,
21 office, or other establishment of the State, or any quasi-public



1 institution that is supported in whole or in part by state
2 funds."

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Renewable Energy Projects; Priority Permitting

Description:

Requires a renewable energy project permit application that fulfills the minimum requirements established by a state or county agency in applicable permit statutes, ordinances, regulations, or rules to be accepted for processing within ten working days of the date the permit application was received by the agency.

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