

JAN 26 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that although limitless
2 resources exist to generate electricity from alternative energy
3 sources, Hawaii remains dependent on imported fossil fuels for
4 more than eighty per cent of its energy generation. The vast
5 majority of electricity in Hawaii is generated in outdated
6 diesel and fossil fuel-powered facilities. These inefficiencies
7 result in many problems for its economy and environment.
8 Hawaii's residents pay electric rates that are one hundred to
9 two hundred per cent higher than the national average. When oil
10 prices peaked in mid-2008, the average household electric bill
11 on Oahu was one hundred ninety-two per cent of the national
12 average. Average household electric bills on the neighbor
13 islands were even higher resulting in hardships statewide for
14 low income families. The legislature further finds that the
15 energy market in Hawaii is dominated by one company that
16 controls most of the production and one hundred per cent of the



1 distribution of energy in the State, and, therefore, has little
2 incentive to develop alternatives. This amounts to a monopoly.

3 The legislature finds that nuclear energy is a safe and
4 efficient alternative to fossil fuels. Nuclear energy is used
5 to produce electricity in many areas of the mainland United
6 States. Nuclear power is successfully used in countries in
7 Europe and Asia. In fact, since 1973, France has constructed
8 fifty-eight nuclear power facilities that provide over eighty
9 per cent of that country's electricity. The legislature further
10 finds that nuclear power generation facilities already exist in
11 Hawaii and have for some time, in the form of the United States
12 Navy's nuclear powered vessels at Pearl Harbor. The opportunity
13 exists to safely use nuclear energy to generate electricity for
14 the public and end Hawaii's dependence on expensive polluting
15 fossil fuels.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a nuclear energy
17 commission to study the feasibility and advisability of
18 developing nuclear energy generation facilities in Hawaii.

19 SECTION 2. (a) The nuclear energy commission is
20 established within the department of business, economic
21 development, and tourism, for administrative purposes only.

22 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:



- 1 (1) The director of business, economic development, and
2 tourism, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
3 commission;
- 4 (2) Three members of the general public with expertise in
5 nuclear energy generation or nuclear waste disposal,
6 to be appointed by the governor;
- 7 (3) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 8 (4) An expert on nuclear energy from the University of
9 Hawaii appointed by the president of the University of
10 Hawaii;
- 11 (5) An expert on nuclear waste disposal from the
12 University of Hawaii appointed by the president of the
13 University of Hawaii
- 14 (6) An expert on nuclear energy generation from the United
15 States Navy shall be requested to serve;
- 16 (7) A representative of the United States Department of
17 Energy shall be requested to serve; and
- 18 (8) A representative from the Nature Conservancy shall be
19 requested to serve.
- 20 (c) The commission shall:
- 21 (1) Study the feasibility of developing nuclear energy
22 generation facilities in Hawaii;



1 (2) Evaluate the risks and benefits of developing nuclear
2 energy generation facilities in Hawaii, including
3 environmental risks;

4 (3) Evaluate the short-term and long-term economic costs
5 and benefits of developing nuclear energy generation
6 facilities in Hawaii; and

7 (4) Study strategies for safely disposing, storing, or
8 reprocessing nuclear waste.

9 (d) The commission shall report its findings and
10 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
11 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2010.

12 SECTION 3. The commission shall cease to exist on June 30,
13 2011.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
15

INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*
[Signature]

Clarence M. Fukushima

Norman Sakuma

[Signature]

Erzanne Chun Oalland

Will Gyo
[Signature]

Report Title:

Nuclear Energy; DBEDT

Description:

Establishes a nuclear energy commission within the department of business, economic development, and tourism.

