
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 despite the
2 increasing ability to generate electricity from alternative
3 energy sources, Hawaii remains dependent on imported fossil
4 fuels for more than eighty per cent of its energy generation.
5 The vast majority of electricity in Hawaii is generated in
6 outdated diesel and fossil fuel-powered facilities, resulting in
7 numerous environmental and economic problems. Electricity rates
8 in Hawaii are more than one hundred per cent higher than the
9 national average. At the peak of the oil crisis in mid-2008,
10 the average household electric bill on Oahu was nearly two
11 hundred per cent higher than the national average and rates on
12 the neighbor islands were even higher.

13 The legislature further finds that the energy market in
14 Hawaii is dominated by one company that controls most of the
15 production and nearly one hundred per cent of the distribution
16 of energy in the State, and, therefore, has little incentive to
17 develop alternatives. This amounts to a monopoly.



1 The legislature finds that nuclear energy is a safe and
2 efficient alternative to fossil fuels and that nuclear power
3 generation facilities already exist in Hawaii in the form of the
4 United States Navy's nuclear-powered vessels berthed at Pearl
5 Harbor. Many areas throughout the continental United States,
6 Europe, and Asia produce electricity with nuclear energy.
7 France, for example, has constructed fifty-eight nuclear power
8 facilities that generate nearly ninety per cent of the country's
9 electricity. Just as in these other areas, the opportunity
10 exists in Hawaii to safely use nuclear energy to generate
11 electricity and substantially reduce the State's dependence on
12 expensive imported fossil fuels.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a nuclear energy
14 commission to study the feasibility and advisability of
15 developing nuclear energy generation facilities in Hawaii.

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

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

20 (1) The director of business, economic development, and
21 tourism, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
22 commission;



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



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

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

6 (d) The commission shall report its findings and
 7 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
 8 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

9 SECTION 3. The commission shall cease to exist on June 30,
 10 2013.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 19 2011

Report Title:

Nuclear Energy; DBEDT

Description:

Establishes a nuclear energy commission within the department of business, economic development, and tourism to study the feasibility, risks, and benefits of developing nuclear energy generation facilities in Hawaii. Requires report to 2012 regular session of legislature.

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