
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 205-5.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~{}~~§205-5.3~~{}~~ **Exploratory wells.** (a) Notwithstanding
4 section 205-5.1(a), (d), and (e), or any other provision of law,
5 any exploratory well drilled for scientific purposes or to
6 determine the economic viability of a geothermal resource, may
7 be permitted outside of a designated geothermal resource
8 subzone, regardless of land use classification, provided that
9 the activity is limited to exploration only. All applicable
10 state and county permits shall be required to drill ~~[such]~~
11 exploratory wells ~~[which]~~; provided that large hole wells shall
12 not be exempt from the requirements of [the environmental impact
13 statement law,] chapter 343[-]; and provided further that slim
14 hole wells shall be exempt from the requirements of chapter 343.

15 (b) In addition to any other requirements, slim hole wells
16 shall:

17 (1) Not be used to extract geothermal resources for
18 production purposes;



1 (2) Have a casing management plan to ensure the protection
2 of any water aquifer that is penetrated; and

3 (3) Have steam or fluid loss protections of five thousand
4 pounds per square inch or greater.

5 (c) For the purposes of this section:

6 "Large hole well" means an exploratory well with a diameter
7 larger than thirteen and three-eighths inches.

8 "Slim hole well" means an exploratory well with a diameter
9 of thirteen and three-eighths inches or less."

10 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Denny Collier

JAN 24 2012



H.B. NO. 2689

Report Title:

Geothermal Energy; Exploratory Wells

Description:

Exempts slim hole wells from chapter 343, HRS, and establishes specific environmental safety requirements for slim hole wells. Defines "slim hole well" and "large hole well".

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