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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to address  
3 geothermal resources.

4 More specifically:

5 (1) Part II amends chapter 182, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
6 relating to mining leases, to define and differentiate  
7 between geothermal resources exploration and  
8 geothermal resources development;

9 (2) Part III amends chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
10 relating to the conservation district, by designating  
11 geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
12 resources development as permitted uses in all zones  
13 of the conservation district;

14 (3) Part IV amends chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
15 relating to state land use districts, by repealing the  
16 geothermal resource subzone provisions and designating  
17 geothermal resources exploration and geothermal



1 resources development as permitted uses in all  
2 districts; and  
3 (4) Part V amends chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
4 relating to the environmental review process, by  
5 exempting "geothermal resources exploration" from the  
6 need for an environmental assessment or environmental  
7 impact statement.

8 PART II

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 182, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§182- No environmental assessment or environmental  
13 impact statement required for geothermal resources exploration  
14 lease or permit. The board shall not require any person  
15 applying for a lease or permit exclusively for geothermal  
16 resources exploration to prepare an environmental assessment or  
17 environmental impact statement as a condition of accepting an  
18 application for or issuing the lease or permit."

19 SECTION 3. Section 182-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended as follows:

21 1. By adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
22 inserted and to read:



1       "Geothermal resources development" means the development  
2 or production of electrical energy from geothermal resources and  
3 direct use application of geothermal resources. The term does  
4 not include geothermal resources exploration.

5       "Geothermal resources exploration" means:

6       (1) Conducting non-invasive geophysical operations; or

7       (2) Drilling exploration wells for the extraction and

8       removal of minerals of types and quantities,

9 that are reasonably required for testing and analysis to provide  
10 ground truth or determine the economic viability of geothermal  
11 resources. The term does not include geothermal resources  
12 development."

13       2. By amending the definitions of "mining lease" and  
14 "mining operations" to read:

15       "Mining lease" means a lease of the right to conduct  
16 mining operations, including geothermal resource exploration or  
17 development, on state lands and on lands sold or leased by the  
18 State or its predecessors in interest with a reservation of  
19 mineral rights to the State.

20       "Mining operations" means the process of excavation,  
21 extraction, and removal of minerals, and the exploration or  
22 development of any and all geothermal resources, from the



1 ground, design engineering, other engineering, erection of  
2 transportation facilities and port facilities, erection of  
3 necessary plants, other necessary operations or development  
4 approved by the board preceding or connected with the actual  
5 extraction of minerals and the exploration or development of  
6 geothermal resources."

7 SECTION 4. Section 182-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "**§182-5 Mining leases on reserved lands.** If any mineral  
10 is discovered or known to exist on reserved lands, any  
11 interested person may notify the board of land and natural  
12 resources of the person's desire to apply for a mining lease.  
13 The notice shall be accompanied by a fee of \$100 together with a  
14 description of the land desired to be leased and the minerals  
15 involved and such information and maps as the board may by  
16 regulation prescribe. The board may grant a mining lease on  
17 reserved lands in accordance with section 182-4, or the board  
18 may, by the vote of two-thirds of its members to which the board  
19 is entitled, without public auction, grant a mining lease on  
20 reserved lands to the occupier thereof. Such a mining lease may  
21 be granted to a person other than the occupier if the occupier  
22 has assigned the occupier's rights to apply for a mining lease



1 to another person, in which case only such an assignee may be  
2 granted a mining lease. Any provisions to the contrary  
3 notwithstanding, if the board decides that it is appropriate to  
4 grant a geothermal mining lease on the reserved lands, the  
5 surface owner or the owner's assignee shall have the first right  
6 of refusal for a mining lease[~~; however, the granting of a~~  
7 ~~geothermal mining lease does not create the presumption that a~~  
8 ~~geothermal resource subzone will be designated, nor shall~~  
9 ~~geothermal development activities occur on land within the~~  
10 ~~geothermal mining lease until the area is designated a~~  
11 ~~geothermal resource subzone]. If the occupier or the occupier's  
12 assignee of the right to obtain a mining lease should fail to  
13 apply for a mining lease within six months from the date of  
14 notice from the board of a finding by the board that it is in  
15 the public interest that the minerals on the reserved lands be  
16 mined, a mining lease shall be granted under section 182-4;  
17 provided that bidders at the public auction shall bid on an  
18 amount to be paid to the State for a mining lease granting to  
19 the lessee the right to exploit minerals reserved to the State."~~

20 SECTION 5. Section 182-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:





1           "**§183C-4 Zoning; amendments.** (a) The department, after  
2 notice and hearing as provided in this section, shall review and  
3 redefine the boundaries of the zones within the conservation  
4 district.

5           (b) The department shall adopt rules governing the use of  
6 land within the boundaries of the conservation district that are  
7 consistent with the conservation of necessary forest growth, the  
8 conservation and development of land and natural resources  
9 adequate for present and future needs, and the conservation and  
10 preservation of open space areas for public use and enjoyment.  
11 No use except a nonconforming use as defined in section 183C-5,  
12 shall be made within the conservation district unless the use is  
13 in accordance with a zoning rule.

14           (c) The department may allow a temporary variance from  
15 zoned use where good cause is shown and where the proposed  
16 temporary variance is for a use determined by the department to  
17 be in accordance with good conservation practices.

18           (d) The department shall establish zones within the  
19 conservation district, which shall be restricted to certain  
20 uses. The department, by rules, may specify the land uses  
21 permitted therein which may include, but are not limited to,  
22 farming, flower gardening, operation of nurseries or orchards,



1 growth of commercial timber, grazing, recreational or hunting  
2 pursuits, or residential use. The rules may control the extent,  
3 manner, and times of the uses, and may specifically prohibit  
4 unlimited cutting of forest growth, soil mining, or other  
5 activities detrimental to good conservation practices.

6 (e) Notwithstanding this section or any other law to the  
7 contrary, geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
8 resources development, as defined under section 182-1, shall be  
9 permitted uses in all zones of the conservation district. The  
10 rules required under subsection (b) governing the use of land  
11 within the boundaries of the conservation district shall be  
12 deemed to include the application of this subsection without  
13 necessity of formal adoption by the department.

14 [~~e~~] (f) Whenever any landowner or government agency whose  
15 property will be directly affected makes an application to  
16 change the boundaries or land uses of any zone, or to establish  
17 a zone with certain land uses, or where the department proposes  
18 to make the change or changes itself, the change or changes  
19 shall be put in the form of a proposed rule by the applicant and  
20 the department shall then give public notice thereof during  
21 three successive weeks statewide and in the county in which the  
22 property is located. The notice shall be given not less than





1 thirty days prior to the date set for the hearing, and shall  
2 state the time and place of the hearing and the changes  
3 proposed. Any proposed rules and the necessary maps shall be  
4 made available for inspection by interested members of the  
5 public. The hearing shall be held in the county in which the  
6 land is located and may be delegated to an agent or  
7 representative of the board as may otherwise be provided by law  
8 and in accordance with rules adopted by the board. For the  
9 purpose of its public hearing or hearings, the board may summon  
10 witnesses, administer oaths, and require the giving of  
11 testimony."

12 SECTION 7. Section 183C-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§183C-6 Permits and site plan approvals.** (a) The  
15 department shall regulate land use in the conservation district  
16 by the issuance of permits.

17 (b) The department shall render a decision on a completed  
18 application for a permit within one-hundred-eighty days of its  
19 acceptance by the department. If within one-hundred-eighty days  
20 after acceptance of a completed application for a permit, the  
21 department shall fail to give notice, hold a hearing, and render  
22 a decision, the owner may automatically put the owner's land to



1 the use or uses requested in the owner's application. When an  
2 environmental impact statement is required pursuant to chapter  
3 343, or when a contested case hearing is requested pursuant to  
4 chapter 91, the one-hundred-eighty days may be extended an  
5 additional ninety days at the request of the applicant. Any  
6 request for additional extensions shall be subject to the  
7 approval of the board.

8 (c) The department shall hold a public hearing in every  
9 case involving the proposed use of land for commercial purposes,  
10 at which hearing interested persons shall be afforded a  
11 reasonable opportunity to be heard. Public notice of the time  
12 and place of the hearing shall be given at least once statewide  
13 and in the county in which the property is located. The notice  
14 shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the date set  
15 for the hearing. The hearing shall be held in the county in  
16 which the land is located and may be delegated to an agent or  
17 representative of the board as may otherwise be provided by law  
18 and in accordance with rules adopted by the board. For the  
19 purposes of its public hearing or hearings, the department shall  
20 have the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and  
21 require the giving of testimony. As used in this subsection,



1 the term "commercial purposes" shall not include the use of land  
2 for utility purposes.

3 (d) The department shall regulate the construction,  
4 reconstruction, demolition, or alteration of any structure,  
5 building, or facility by the issuance of site plan approvals.

6 (e) Any permit for the reconstruction, restoration,  
7 repair, or use of any Hawaiian fishpond exempted from the  
8 requirements of chapter 343 under section 183B-2 shall provide  
9 for compliance with the conditions of section 183B-2.

10 (f) The department shall not require an applicant for a  
11 permit exclusively for geothermal resources exploration to  
12 prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact  
13 statement pursuant to chapter 343 as a condition of accepting  
14 the application for or issuing the permit."

15 PART IV

16 SECTION 8. Section 205-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) to read  
18 as follows:

19 "(b) Urban districts shall include activities or uses as  
20 provided by ordinances or regulations of the county within which  
21 the urban district is situated[~~-~~] and geothermal resources



1 exploration and geothermal resources development, as defined  
2 under section 182-1, as permitted uses.

3 (c) Rural districts shall include activities or uses as  
4 characterized by low density residential lots of not more than  
5 one dwelling house per one-half acre, except as provided by  
6 county ordinance pursuant to section 46-4(c), in areas where  
7 "city-like" concentration of people, structures, streets, and  
8 urban level of services are absent, and where small farms are  
9 intermixed with low density residential lots except that within  
10 a subdivision, as defined in section 484-1, the commission for  
11 good cause may allow one lot of less than one-half acre, but not  
12 less than [~~18,500~~] eighteen thousand five hundred square feet,  
13 or an equivalent residential density, within a rural subdivision  
14 and permit the construction of one dwelling on such lot,  
15 provided that all other dwellings in the subdivision shall have  
16 a minimum lot size of one-half acre or 21,780 square feet. Such  
17 petition for variance may be processed under the special permit  
18 procedure. These districts may include contiguous areas which  
19 are not suited to low density residential lots or small farms by  
20 reason of topography, soils, and other related characteristics.  
21 Rural districts shall also include golf courses, golf driving  
22 ranges, and golf-related facilities.



1        Rural districts shall include geothermal resources  
2 exploration and geothermal resources development, as defined  
3 under section 182-1, as permitted uses.

4        (d) Agricultural districts shall include:

5        (1) Activities or uses as characterized by the cultivation  
6        of crops, crops for bioenergy, orchards, forage, and  
7        forestry;

8        (2) Farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry  
9        and game and fish propagation;

10       (3) Aquaculture, which means the production of aquatic  
11       plant and animal life within ponds and other bodies of  
12       water;

13       (4) Wind generated energy production for public, private,  
14       and commercial use;

15       (5) Biofuel production, as described in section  
16       205-4.5(a)(15), for public, private, and commercial  
17       use;

18       (6) Solar energy facilities; provided that:

19       (A) This paragraph shall apply only to land with soil  
20       classified by the land study bureau's detailed  
21       land classification as overall (master)  
22       productivity rating class B, C, D or E; and



- 1 (B) Solar energy facilities placed within land with  
2 soil classified as overall productivity rating  
3 class B or C shall not occupy more than ten per  
4 cent of the acreage of the parcel, or twenty  
5 acres of land, whichever is lesser;
- 6 (7) Bona fide agricultural services and uses that support  
7 the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold  
8 owner of the property and accessory to any of the  
9 above activities, regardless of whether conducted on  
10 the same premises as the agricultural activities to  
11 which they are accessory, including farm dwellings as  
12 defined in section 205-4.5(a)(4), employee housing,  
13 farm buildings, mills, storage facilities, processing  
14 facilities, agricultural-energy facilities as defined  
15 in section 205-4.5(a)(16), vehicle and equipment  
16 storage areas, roadside stands for the sale of  
17 products grown on the premises, and plantation  
18 community subdivisions as defined in section  
19 205-4.5(a)(12);
- 20 (8) Wind machines and wind farms;
- 21 (9) Small-scale meteorological, air quality, noise, and  
22 other scientific and environmental data collection and



- 1 monitoring facilities occupying less than one-half  
2 acre of land; provided that these facilities shall not  
3 be used as or equipped for use as living quarters or  
4 dwellings;
- 5 (10) Agricultural parks;
- 6 (11) Agricultural tourism conducted on a working farm, or a  
7 farming operation as defined in section 165-2, for the  
8 enjoyment, education, or involvement of visitors;  
9 provided that the agricultural tourism activity is  
10 accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural  
11 use and does not interfere with surrounding farm  
12 operations; and provided further that this paragraph  
13 shall apply only to a county that has adopted  
14 ordinances regulating agricultural tourism under  
15 section 205-5; [~~and~~]
- 16 (12) Open area recreational facilities[-]; and
- 17 (13) Geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
18 resources development, as defined under section 182-1.
- 19 Agricultural districts shall not include golf courses and golf  
20 driving ranges, except as provided in section 205-4.5(d).
- 21 Agricultural districts include areas that are not used for, or



1 that are not suited to, agricultural and ancillary activities by  
2 reason of topography, soils, and other related characteristics.

3 (e) Conservation districts shall include areas necessary  
4 for protecting watersheds and water sources; preserving scenic  
5 and historic areas; providing park lands, wilderness, and beach  
6 reserves; conserving indigenous or endemic plants, fish, and  
7 wildlife, including those which are threatened or endangered;  
8 preventing floods and soil erosion; forestry; open space areas  
9 whose existing openness, natural condition, or present state of  
10 use, if retained, would enhance the present or potential value  
11 of abutting or surrounding communities, or would maintain or  
12 enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources; areas  
13 of value for recreational purposes; other related activities;  
14 and other permitted uses not detrimental to a multiple use  
15 conservation concept. Conservation districts shall also include  
16 areas for geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
17 resources development, as defined under section 182-1."

18 SECTION 9. Section 205-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Within the agricultural district, all lands with soil  
21 classified by the land study bureau's detailed land





1 classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A  
2 or B shall be restricted to the following permitted uses:

3 (1) Cultivation of crops, including crops for bioenergy,  
4 flowers, vegetables, foliage, fruits, forage, and  
5 timber;

6 (2) Game and fish propagation;

7 (3) Raising of livestock, including poultry, bees, fish,  
8 or other animal or aquatic life that are propagated  
9 for economic or personal use;

10 (4) Farm dwellings, employee housing, farm buildings, or  
11 activities or uses related to farming and animal  
12 husbandry. "Farm dwelling", as used in this  
13 paragraph, means a single-family dwelling located on  
14 and used in connection with a farm, including clusters  
15 of single-family farm dwellings permitted within  
16 agricultural parks developed by the State, or where  
17 agricultural activity provides income to the family  
18 occupying the dwelling;

19 (5) Public institutions and buildings that are necessary  
20 for agricultural practices;

21 (6) Public and private open area types of recreational  
22 uses, including day camps, picnic grounds, parks, and



- 1 riding stables, but not including dragstrips,  
2 airports, drive-in theaters, golf courses, golf  
3 driving ranges, country clubs, and overnight camps;
- 4 (7) Public, private, and quasi-public utility lines and  
5 roadways, transformer stations, communications  
6 equipment buildings, solid waste transfer stations,  
7 major water storage tanks, and appurtenant small  
8 buildings such as booster pumping stations, but not  
9 including offices or yards for equipment, material,  
10 vehicle storage, repair or maintenance, treatment  
11 plants, corporation yards, or other similar  
12 structures;
- 13 (8) Retention, restoration, rehabilitation, or improvement  
14 of buildings or sites of historic or scenic interest;
- 15 (9) Roadside stands for the sale of agricultural products  
16 grown on the premises;
- 17 (10) Buildings and uses, including mills, storage, and  
18 processing facilities, maintenance facilities, and  
19 vehicle and equipment storage areas that are normally  
20 considered directly accessory to the above-mentioned  
21 uses and are permitted under section 205-2(d);
- 22 (11) Agricultural parks;



1           (12) Plantation community subdivisions, which as used in  
2           this chapter means an established subdivision or  
3           cluster of employee housing, community buildings, and  
4           agricultural support buildings on land currently or  
5           formerly owned, leased, or operated by a sugar or  
6           pineapple plantation; provided that the existing  
7           structures may be used or rehabilitated for use, and  
8           new employee housing and agricultural support  
9           buildings may be allowed on land within the  
10          subdivision as follows:

11           (A) The employee housing is occupied by employees or  
12           former employees of the plantation who have a  
13           property interest in the land;

14           (B) The employee housing units not owned by their  
15           occupants shall be rented or leased at affordable  
16           rates for agricultural workers; or

17           (C) The agricultural support buildings shall be  
18           rented or leased to agricultural business  
19           operators or agricultural support services;

20          (13) Agricultural tourism conducted on a working farm, or a  
21          farming operation as defined in section 165-2, for the  
22          enjoyment, education, or involvement of visitors;



1 provided that the agricultural tourism activity is  
2 accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural  
3 use and does not interfere with surrounding farm  
4 operations; and provided further that this paragraph  
5 shall apply only to a county that has adopted  
6 ordinances regulating agricultural tourism under  
7 section 205-5;

8 (14) Wind energy facilities, including the appurtenances  
9 associated with the production and transmission of  
10 wind generated energy; provided that the wind energy  
11 facilities and appurtenances are compatible with  
12 agriculture uses and cause minimal adverse impact on  
13 agricultural land;

14 (15) Biofuel processing facilities, including the  
15 appurtenances associated with the production and  
16 refining of biofuels that is normally considered  
17 directly accessory and secondary to the growing of the  
18 energy feedstock; provided that biofuels processing  
19 facilities and appurtenances do not adversely impact  
20 agricultural land and other agricultural uses in the  
21 vicinity.

22 For the purposes of this paragraph:



1 "Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure  
2 of the appropriate type and scale for economic  
3 commercial storage and distribution, and other similar  
4 handling of feedstock, fuels, and other products of  
5 biofuels processing facilities.

6 "Biofuel processing facility" means a facility  
7 that produces liquid or gaseous fuels from organic  
8 sources such as biomass crops, agricultural residues,  
9 and oil crops, including palm, canola, soybean, and  
10 waste cooking oils; grease; food wastes; and animal  
11 residues and wastes that can be used to generate  
12 energy;

13 (16) Agricultural-energy facilities, including  
14 appurtenances necessary for an agricultural-energy  
15 enterprise; provided that the primary activity of the  
16 agricultural-energy enterprise is agricultural  
17 activity. To be considered the primary activity of an  
18 agricultural-energy enterprise, the total acreage  
19 devoted to agricultural activity shall be not less  
20 than ninety per cent of the total acreage of the  
21 agricultural-energy enterprise. The agricultural-  
22 energy facility shall be limited to lands owned,



1 leased, licensed, or operated by the entity conducting  
2 the agricultural activity.

3 As used in this paragraph:

4 "Agricultural activity" means any activity  
5 described in paragraphs (1) to (3) of this subsection.

6 "Agricultural-energy enterprise" means an  
7 enterprise that integrally incorporates an  
8 agricultural activity with an agricultural-energy  
9 facility.

10 "Agricultural-energy facility" means a facility  
11 that generates, stores, or distributes renewable  
12 energy as defined in section 269-91 or renewable fuel  
13 including electrical or thermal energy or liquid or  
14 gaseous fuels from products of agricultural activities  
15 from agricultural lands located in the State.

16 "Appurtenances" means operational infrastructure  
17 of the appropriate type and scale for the economic  
18 commercial generation, storage, distribution, and  
19 other similar handling of energy, including equipment,  
20 feedstock, fuels, and other products of agricultural-  
21 energy facilities;



- 1           (17) Construction and operation of wireless communication  
2           antennas; provided that, for the purposes of this  
3           paragraph, "wireless communication antenna" means  
4           communications equipment that is either freestanding  
5           or placed upon or attached to an already existing  
6           structure and that transmits and receives  
7           electromagnetic radio signals used in the provision of  
8           all types of wireless communications services;  
9           provided further that nothing in this paragraph shall  
10          be construed to permit the construction of any new  
11          structure that is not deemed a permitted use under  
12          this subsection;
- 13          (18) Agricultural education programs conducted on a farming  
14          operation as defined in section 165-2, for the  
15          education and participation of the general public;  
16          provided that the agricultural education programs are  
17          accessory and secondary to the principal agricultural  
18          use of the parcels or lots on which the agricultural  
19          education programs are to occur and do not interfere  
20          with surrounding farm operations. For the purposes of  
21          this section, "agricultural education programs" means  
22          activities or events designed to promote knowledge and



1 understanding of agricultural activities and practices  
2 conducted on a farming operation as defined in section  
3 165-2; [~~or~~]

4 (19) Solar energy facilities that do not occupy more than  
5 ten per cent of the acreage of the parcel, or twenty  
6 acres of land, whichever is lesser; provided that this  
7 use shall not be permitted on lands with soil  
8 classified by the land study bureau's detailed land  
9 classification as overall (master) productivity rating  
10 class A[-]; or

11 (20) Geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
12 resources development, as defined under section 182-  
13 1."

14 SECTION 10. Section 205-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

16 "(c) Unless authorized by special permit issued pursuant  
17 to this chapter, only the following uses shall be permitted  
18 within rural districts:

- 19 (1) Low density residential uses;
- 20 (2) Agricultural uses;
- 21 (3) Golf courses, golf driving ranges, and golf-related
- 22 facilities; [~~and~~]





- 1 (4) Public, quasi-public, and public utility  
2 facilities[-]; and  
3 (5) Geothermal resources exploration and geothermal  
4 resources development, as defined under section 182-1.

5 In addition, the minimum lot size for any low density  
6 residential use shall be one-half acre and there shall be but  
7 one dwelling house per one-half acre, except as provided for in  
8 section 205-2."

9 SECTION 11. Section 205-5.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 repealed.

11 [~~"§205-5.1 Geothermal resource subzones. (a) Geothermal~~  
12 ~~resource subzones may be designated within the urban, rural,~~  
13 ~~agricultural, and conservation land use districts established~~  
14 ~~under section 205-2. Only those areas designated as geothermal~~  
15 ~~resource subzones may be utilized for geothermal development~~  
16 ~~activities in addition to those uses permitted in each land use~~  
17 ~~district under this chapter. Geothermal development activities~~  
18 ~~may be permitted within urban, rural, agricultural, and~~  
19 ~~conservation land use districts in accordance with this chapter.~~  
20 ~~"Geothermal development activities" means the exploration,~~  
21 ~~development, or production of electrical energy from geothermal~~  
22 ~~resources and direct use applications of geothermal resources,~~



1 ~~provided that within the urban, rural, and agricultural land use~~  
2 ~~districts, direct use applications of geothermal resources are~~  
3 ~~permitted both within and outside of areas designated as~~  
4 ~~geothermal resource subzones pursuant to section 205 5.2 if such~~  
5 ~~direct use applications are in conformance with all other~~  
6 ~~applicable state and county land use regulations and are in~~  
7 ~~conformance with this chapter.~~

8 ~~(b) The board of land and natural resources shall have the~~  
9 ~~responsibility for designating areas as geothermal resource~~  
10 ~~subzones as provided under section 205 5.2; except that the~~  
11 ~~total area within an agricultural district which is the subject~~  
12 ~~of a geothermal mining lease approved by the board of land and~~  
13 ~~natural resources, any part or all of which area is the subject~~  
14 ~~of a special use permit issued by the county for geothermal~~  
15 ~~development activities, on or before May 25, 1984, is designated~~  
16 ~~as a geothermal resource subzone for the duration of the lease.~~  
17 ~~The designation of geothermal resource subzones shall be~~  
18 ~~governed exclusively by this section and section 205 5.2, except~~  
19 ~~as provided therein. The board shall adopt, amend, or repeal~~  
20 ~~rules related to its authority to designate and regulate the use~~  
21 ~~of geothermal resource subzones in the manner provided under~~  
22 ~~chapter 91.~~



1       ~~The authority of the board to designate geothermal resource~~  
2 ~~subzones shall be an exception to these provisions of this~~  
3 ~~chapter and of section 46'4 authorizing the land use commission~~  
4 ~~and the counties to establish and modify land use districts and~~  
5 ~~to regulate uses therein. The provisions of this section shall~~  
6 ~~not abrogate nor supersede the provisions of chapters 182, 183,~~  
7 ~~and 183C.~~

8       ~~(c) The use of an area for geothermal development~~  
9 ~~activities within a geothermal resource subzone shall be~~  
10 ~~governed by the board within the conservation district and,~~  
11 ~~except as herein provided, by state and county statutes,~~  
12 ~~ordinances, and rules not inconsistent herewith within~~  
13 ~~agricultural, rural, and urban districts, except that no land~~  
14 ~~use commission approval or special use permit procedures under~~  
15 ~~section 205-6 shall be required for the use of such subzones.~~  
16 ~~In the absence of provisions in the county general plan and~~  
17 ~~zoning ordinances specifically relating to the use and location~~  
18 ~~of geothermal development activities in an agricultural, rural,~~  
19 ~~or urban district, the appropriate county authority may issue a~~  
20 ~~geothermal resource permit to allow geothermal development~~  
21 ~~activities. "Appropriate county authority" means the county~~  
22 ~~planning commission unless some other agency or body is~~



1 ~~designated by ordinance of the county council. Such uses as are~~  
2 ~~permitted by county general plan and zoning ordinances, by the~~  
3 ~~appropriate county authority, shall be deemed to be reasonable~~  
4 ~~and to promote the effectiveness and objectives of this chapter.~~  
5 ~~Chapters 177, 178, 182, 183, 183C, 205A, 226, 342, and 343 shall~~  
6 ~~apply as appropriate. If provisions in the county general plan~~  
7 ~~and zoning ordinances specifically relate to the use and~~  
8 ~~location of geothermal development activities in an~~  
9 ~~agricultural, rural, or urban district, the provisions shall~~  
10 ~~require the appropriate county authority to conduct a public~~  
11 ~~hearing on any application for a geothermal resource permit to~~  
12 ~~determine whether the use is in conformity with the criteria~~  
13 ~~specified in subsection (e) for granting geothermal resource~~  
14 ~~permits; provided that within the urban, rural, and agricultural~~  
15 ~~land use districts, direct use applications of geothermal~~  
16 ~~resources are permitted without any application for a geothermal~~  
17 ~~resource permit both within and outside of areas designated as~~  
18 ~~geothermal resource subzones pursuant to section 205-5.2 if such~~  
19 ~~direct use applications are in conformance with all other~~  
20 ~~applicable state and county land use regulations and are in~~  
21 ~~conformance with this chapter.~~



1       ~~(d) If geothermal development activities are proposed~~  
2 ~~within a conservation district, with an application with all~~  
3 ~~required data, the board of land and natural resources shall~~  
4 ~~conduct a public hearing and, upon appropriate request for~~  
5 ~~mediation from any party who submitted comment at the public~~  
6 ~~hearing, the board shall appoint a mediator within five days.~~  
7 ~~The board shall require the parties to participate in mediation.~~  
8 ~~The mediator shall not be a member of the board or its staff.~~  
9 ~~The mediation period shall not extend beyond thirty days after~~  
10 ~~the date mediation started, except by order of the board.~~  
11 ~~Mediation shall be confined to the issues raised at the public~~  
12 ~~hearing by the party requesting mediation. The mediator will~~  
13 ~~submit a written recommendation to the board, based upon any~~  
14 ~~mediation agreement reached between the parties for~~  
15 ~~consideration by the board in its final decision. If there is~~  
16 ~~no mediation agreement, the board may have a second public~~  
17 ~~hearing to receive additional comment related to the mediation~~  
18 ~~issues. Within ten days after the second public hearing, the~~  
19 ~~board may receive additional written comment on the issues~~  
20 ~~raised at the second public hearing from any party.~~

21       ~~The board shall consider the comments raised at the second~~  
22 ~~hearing before rendering its final decision. The board shall~~



1 ~~then determine whether, pursuant to board rules, a conservation~~  
2 ~~district use permit shall be granted to authorize the geothermal~~  
3 ~~development activities described in the application. The board~~  
4 ~~shall grant a conservation district use permit if it finds that~~  
5 ~~the applicant has demonstrated that:~~

6 ~~(1) The desired uses would not have unreasonable adverse~~  
7 ~~health, environmental, or socio-economic effects on~~  
8 ~~residents or surrounding property; and~~

9 ~~(2) The desired uses would not unreasonably burden public~~  
10 ~~agencies to provide roads and streets, sewers, water,~~  
11 ~~drainage, and police and fire protection; or~~

12 ~~(3) There are reasonable measures available to mitigate~~  
13 ~~the unreasonable adverse effects or burdens referred~~  
14 ~~to above.~~

15 ~~A decision shall be made by the board within six months of~~  
16 ~~the date a complete application was filed; provided that the~~  
17 ~~time limit may be extended by agreement between the applicant~~  
18 ~~and the board.~~

19 ~~(e) If geothermal development activities are proposed~~  
20 ~~within agricultural, rural, or urban districts and such proposed~~  
21 ~~activities are not permitted uses pursuant to county general~~  
22 ~~plan and zoning ordinances, then after receipt of a properly~~



1 ~~filed and completed application, including all required~~  
2 ~~supporting data, the appropriate county authority shall conduct~~  
3 ~~a public hearing. Upon appropriate request for mediation from~~  
4 ~~any party who submitted comment at the public hearing, the~~  
5 ~~county authority shall appoint a mediator within five days. The~~  
6 ~~county authority shall require the parties to participate in~~  
7 ~~mediation. The mediator shall not be an employee of any county~~  
8 ~~agency or its staff. The mediation period shall not extend~~  
9 ~~beyond thirty days after mediation started, except by order of~~  
10 ~~the county authority. Mediation shall be confined to the issues~~  
11 ~~raised at the public hearing by the party requesting mediation.~~  
12 ~~The mediator will submit a written recommendation to the county~~  
13 ~~authority, based upon any mediation agreement reached between~~  
14 ~~the parties for consideration by the county authority in its~~  
15 ~~final decision. If there is no mediation agreement, the county~~  
16 ~~authority may have a second public hearing to receive additional~~  
17 ~~comment related to the mediation issues. Within ten days after~~  
18 ~~the second public hearing, the county authority may receive~~  
19 ~~additional written comment on the issues raised at the second~~  
20 ~~public hearing from any party.~~

21 ~~The county authority shall consider the comments raised at~~  
22 ~~the second hearing before rendering its final decision. The~~



1 ~~county authority shall then determine whether a geothermal~~  
2 ~~resource permit shall be granted to authorize the geothermal~~  
3 ~~development activities described in the application. The~~  
4 ~~appropriate county authority shall grant a geothermal resource~~  
5 ~~permit if it finds that applicant has demonstrated that:~~

6       ~~(1) The desired uses would not have unreasonable adverse~~  
7       ~~health, environmental, or socio-economic effects on~~  
8       ~~residents or surrounding property;~~

9       ~~(2) The desired uses would not unreasonably burden public~~  
10       ~~agencies to provide roads and streets, sewers, water,~~  
11       ~~drainage, school improvements, and police and fire~~  
12       ~~protection; and~~

13       ~~(3) That there are reasonable measures available to~~  
14       ~~mitigate the unreasonable adverse effects or burdens~~  
15       ~~referred to above.~~

16       ~~Unless there is a mutual agreement to extend, a decision~~  
17 ~~shall be made on the application by the appropriate county~~  
18 ~~authority within six months of the date a complete application~~  
19 ~~was filed, provided that the time limit may be extended by~~  
20 ~~agreement between the applicant and the appropriate county~~  
21 ~~authority.~~





1       ~~(f) Requests for mediation shall be received by the board~~  
2 ~~or county authority within five days after the close of the~~  
3 ~~initial public hearing. Within five days thereafter, the board~~  
4 ~~or county authority shall appoint a mediator. Any person~~  
5 ~~submitting an appropriate request for mediation shall be~~  
6 ~~notified by the board or county authority of the date, time, and~~  
7 ~~place of the mediation conference by depositing such notice in~~  
8 ~~the mail to the return address stated on the request for~~  
9 ~~mediation. The notice shall be mailed no later than ten days~~  
10 ~~before the start of the mediation conference. The conference~~  
11 ~~shall be held on the island where the public hearing is held.~~

12       ~~(g) Any decision made by an appropriate county authority~~  
13 ~~or the board pursuant to a public hearing or hearings under this~~  
14 ~~section may be appealed directly on the record to the~~  
15 ~~intermediate appellate court for final decision and shall not be~~  
16 ~~subject to a contested case hearing. Sections 91-14(b) and (g)~~  
17 ~~shall govern the appeal, notwithstanding the lack of a contested~~  
18 ~~case hearing on the matter. The appropriate county authority or~~  
19 ~~the board shall provide a court reporter to produce a transcript~~  
20 ~~of the proceedings at all public hearings under this section for~~  
21 ~~purposes of an appeal.~~



1       ~~(h) For the purposes of an appeal from a decision from a~~  
2 ~~public hearing, the record shall include:~~

3       ~~(1) The application for the permit and all accompanying~~  
4 ~~supporting documents, including but not limited to:~~  
5 ~~reports, studies, affidavits, statements, and~~  
6 ~~exhibits.~~

7       ~~(2) Staff recommendations submitted to the members of the~~  
8 ~~agency in consideration of the application.~~

9       ~~(3) Oral and written public testimony received at the~~  
10 ~~public hearings.~~

11       ~~(4) Written transcripts of the proceedings at the public~~  
12 ~~hearings.~~

13       ~~(5) The written recommendation received by the agency from~~  
14 ~~the mediator with any mediation agreement.~~

15       ~~(6) A statement of relevant matters noticed by the agency~~  
16 ~~members at the public hearings.~~

17       ~~(7) The written decision of the agency issued in~~  
18 ~~connection with the application and public hearings.~~

19       ~~(8) Other documents required by the board or county~~  
20 ~~authority." ]~~

21       SECTION 12. Section 205-5.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
22 repealed.



1           ~~["§205-5.2 Designation of areas as geothermal resource~~  
2 ~~subzones. (a) Beginning in 1983, the board of land and natural~~  
3 ~~resources shall conduct a county by county assessment of areas~~  
4 ~~with geothermal potential for the purpose of designating~~  
5 ~~geothermal resource subzones. This assessment shall be revised~~  
6 ~~or updated at the discretion of the board, but at least once~~  
7 ~~each five years beginning in 1988. Any property owner or person~~  
8 ~~with an interest in real property wishing to have an area~~  
9 ~~designated as a geothermal resource subzone may submit a~~  
10 ~~petition for a geothermal resource subzone designation in the~~  
11 ~~form and manner established by rules and regulations adopted by~~  
12 ~~the board. An environmental impact statement as defined under~~  
13 ~~chapter 343 shall not be required for the assessment of areas~~  
14 ~~under this section.~~

15           ~~(b) The board's assessment of each potential geothermal~~  
16 ~~resource subzone area shall examine factors to include, but not~~  
17 ~~be limited to:~~

18           ~~(1) The area's potential for the production of geothermal~~  
19           ~~energy;~~

20           ~~(2) The prospects for the utilization of geothermal energy~~  
21           ~~in the area;~~



- 1       ~~(3) The geologic hazards that potential geothermal~~  
2           ~~projects would encounter;~~
- 3       ~~(4) Social and environmental impacts;~~
- 4       ~~(5) The compatibility of geothermal development and~~  
5           ~~potential related industries with present uses of~~  
6           ~~surrounding land and those uses permitted under the~~  
7           ~~general plan or land use policies of the county in~~  
8           ~~which the area is located;~~
- 9       ~~(6) The potential economic benefits to be derived from~~  
10           ~~geothermal development and potential related~~  
11           ~~industries; and~~
- 12       ~~(7) The compatibility of geothermal development and~~  
13           ~~potential related industries with the uses permitted~~  
14           ~~under chapter 183C and section 205-2, where the area~~  
15           ~~falls within a conservation district.~~

16       ~~In addition, the board shall consider, if applicable,~~  
17       ~~objectives, policies, and guidelines set forth in part I of~~  
18       ~~chapter 205A, and chapter 226.~~

19       ~~(c) Methods for assessing the factors in subsection (b)~~  
20       ~~shall be left to the discretion of the board and may be based on~~  
21       ~~currently available public information.~~



1       ~~(d) After the board has completed a county by county~~  
2 ~~assessment of all areas with geothermal potential or after any~~  
3 ~~subsequent update or review, the board shall compare all areas~~  
4 ~~showing geothermal potential within each county, and shall~~  
5 ~~propose areas for potential designation as geothermal resource~~  
6 ~~subzones based upon a preliminary finding that the areas are~~  
7 ~~those sites which best demonstrate an acceptable balance between~~  
8 ~~the factors set forth in subsection (b). Once a proposal is~~  
9 ~~made, the board shall conduct public hearings pursuant to this~~  
10 ~~subsection, notwithstanding any contrary provision related to~~  
11 ~~public hearing procedures. Contested case procedures are not~~  
12 ~~applicable to these hearings.~~

13       ~~(1) Hearings shall be held at locations which are in close~~  
14 ~~proximity to those areas proposed for designation. A~~  
15 ~~public notice of hearing, including a description of~~  
16 ~~the proposed areas, an invitation for public comment,~~  
17 ~~and a statement of the date, time, and place where~~  
18 ~~persons may be heard shall be given and mailed no less~~  
19 ~~than twenty days before the hearing. The notice shall~~  
20 ~~be given on three separate days statewide and in the~~  
21 ~~county in which the hearing is to be held. Copies of~~  
22 ~~the notice shall be mailed to the department of~~



1 ~~business, economic development, and tourism, to the~~  
2 ~~planning commission and planning department of the~~  
3 ~~county in which the proposed areas are located, and to~~  
4 ~~all owners of record of real estate within, and within~~  
5 ~~one thousand feet of, the area being proposed for~~  
6 ~~designation as a geothermal resource subzone. The~~  
7 ~~notification shall be mailed to the owners and~~  
8 ~~addresses as shown on the current real property tax~~  
9 ~~rolls at the county real property tax office. Upon~~  
10 ~~that action, the requirement for notification of~~  
11 ~~owners of land is completed. For the purposes of this~~  
12 ~~subsection, notice to one co-owner shall be sufficient~~  
13 ~~notice to all co-owners;~~

14 ~~(2) The hearing shall be held before the board, and the~~  
15 ~~authority to conduct hearings shall not be delegated~~  
16 ~~to any agent or representative of the board. All~~  
17 ~~persons and agencies shall be afforded the opportunity~~  
18 ~~to submit data, views, and arguments either orally or~~  
19 ~~in writing. The department of business, economic~~  
20 ~~development, and tourism and the county planning~~  
21 ~~department shall be permitted to appear at every~~



1 ~~hearing and make recommendations concerning each~~  
2 ~~proposal by the board; and~~  
3 ~~(3) At the close of the hearing, the board may designate~~  
4 ~~areas as geothermal resource subzones or announce the~~  
5 ~~date on which it will render its decision. The board~~  
6 ~~may designate areas as geothermal resource subzones~~  
7 ~~only upon finding that the areas are those sites which~~  
8 ~~best demonstrate an acceptable balance between the~~  
9 ~~factors set forth in subsection (b). Upon request,~~  
10 ~~the board shall issue a concise statement of its~~  
11 ~~findings and the principal reasons for its decision to~~  
12 ~~designate a particular area.~~

13 ~~(e) The designation of any geothermal resource subzone may~~  
14 ~~be withdrawn by the board of land and natural resources after~~  
15 ~~proceedings conducted pursuant to chapter 91. The board shall~~  
16 ~~withdraw a designation only upon finding by a preponderance of~~  
17 ~~the evidence that the area is no longer suited for designation;~~  
18 ~~provided that the designation shall not be withdrawn for areas~~  
19 ~~in which active exploration, development, production or~~  
20 ~~distribution of electrical energy from geothermal sources or~~  
21 ~~direct use applications of geothermal resources are taking~~  
22 ~~place.~~







1           "§343-        Geothermal resources exploration; exemption.

2    (a) Geothermal resources exploration shall be exempt from the  
3    requirements of this chapter.

4            (b) If, subsequent to geothermal resources exploration at  
5    a particular site, geothermal resources development is to follow  
6    at the site, this exemption shall not apply to the geothermal  
7    resources development. If the geothermal resources development  
8    is an action requiring an environmental assessment under section  
9    343-5(a), then this chapter shall apply to that action."

10           SECTION 15. Section 343-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11    amended as follows:

12           1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
13    and to read:

14           "Geothermal resources exploration" means the same as  
15    defined under section 182-1."

16           2. By amending the definition of "renewable energy  
17    facility" to read:

18           "Renewable energy facility" has the same meaning as  
19    defined in section 201N-1[-]; except that, for this chapter  
20    only, the term shall not include any facility for geothermal  
21    resources exploration."



1 SECTION 16. Section 343-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Whenever an agency proposes an action in subsection  
4 (a), other than feasibility or planning studies for possible  
5 future programs or projects that the agency has not approved,  
6 adopted, or funded, or other than the use of state or county  
7 funds for the acquisition of unimproved real property that is  
8 not a specific type of action declared exempt under section 343-  
9 6[7] or 343-\_\_\_\_\_, the agency shall prepare an environmental  
10 assessment for such action at the earliest practicable time to  
11 determine whether an environmental impact statement shall be  
12 required.

13 (1) For environmental assessments for which a finding of  
14 no significant impact is anticipated:

15 (A) A draft environmental assessment shall be made  
16 available for public review and comment for a  
17 period of thirty days;

18 (B) The office shall inform the public of the  
19 availability of the draft environmental  
20 assessment for public review and comment pursuant  
21 to section 343-3;



- 1 (C) The agency shall respond in writing to comments  
2 received during the review and prepare a final  
3 environmental assessment to determine whether an  
4 environmental impact statement shall be required;
- 5 (D) A statement shall be required if the agency finds  
6 that the proposed action may have a significant  
7 effect on the environment; and
- 8 (E) The agency shall file notice of such  
9 determination with the office. When a conflict  
10 of interest may exist because the proposing  
11 agency and the agency making the determination  
12 are the same, the office may review the agency's  
13 determination, consult the agency, and advise the  
14 agency of potential conflicts, to comply with  
15 this section. The office shall publish the final  
16 determination for the public's information  
17 pursuant to section 343-3.

18 The draft and final statements, if required, shall be  
19 prepared by the agency and submitted to the office. The draft  
20 statement shall be made available for public review and comment  
21 through the office for a period of forty-five days. The office  
22 shall inform the public of the availability of the draft



1 statement for public review and comment pursuant to section 343-  
2 3. The agency shall respond in writing to comments received  
3 during the review and prepare a final statement.

4 The office, when requested by the agency, may make a  
5 recommendation as to the acceptability of the final statement.

6 (2) The final authority to accept a final statement shall  
7 rest with:

8 (A) The governor, or the governor's authorized  
9 representative, whenever an action proposes the  
10 use of state lands or the use of state funds, or  
11 whenever a state agency proposes an action within  
12 the categories in subsection (a); or

13 (B) The mayor, or the mayor's authorized  
14 representative, of the respective county whenever  
15 an action proposes only the use of county lands  
16 or county funds.

17 Acceptance of a required final statement shall be a  
18 condition precedent to implementation of the proposed action.

19 Upon acceptance or nonacceptance of the final statement, the  
20 governor or mayor, or the governor's or mayor's authorized  
21 representative, shall file notice of such determination with the



1 office. The office, in turn, shall publish the determination of  
2 acceptance or nonacceptance pursuant to section 343-3.

3 (c) Whenever an applicant proposes an action specified by  
4 subsection (a) that requires approval of an agency and that is  
5 not a specific type of action declared exempt under section 343-  
6 6[7] or 343-\_\_\_\_\_, the agency initially receiving and agreeing to  
7 process the request for approval shall prepare an environmental  
8 assessment of the proposed action at the earliest practicable  
9 time to determine whether an environmental impact statement  
10 shall be required; provided that, for an action that proposes  
11 the establishment of a renewable energy facility, a draft  
12 environmental impact statement shall be prepared at the earliest  
13 practicable time. The final approving agency for the request  
14 for approval is not required to be the accepting authority.

15 For environmental assessments for which a finding of no  
16 significant impact is anticipated:

17 (1) A draft environmental assessment shall be made  
18 available for public review and comment for a period  
19 of thirty days;

20 (2) The office shall inform the public of the availability  
21 of the draft environmental assessment for public  
22 review and comment pursuant to section 343-3; and



1           (3) The applicant shall respond in writing to comments  
2           received during the review, and the agency shall  
3           prepare a final environmental assessment to determine  
4           whether an environmental impact statement shall be  
5           required. A statement shall be required if the agency  
6           finds that the proposed action may have a significant  
7           effect on the environment. The agency shall file  
8           notice of the agency's determination with the office,  
9           which, in turn, shall publish the agency's  
10          determination for the public's information pursuant to  
11          section 343-3.

12          The draft and final statements, if required, shall be  
13          prepared by the applicant, who shall file these statements with  
14          the office.

15          The draft statement shall be made available for public  
16          review and comment through the office for a period of forty-five  
17          days. The office shall inform the public of the availability of  
18          the draft statement for public review and comment pursuant to  
19          section 343-3.

20          The applicant shall respond in writing to comments received  
21          during the review and prepare a final statement. The office,



1 when requested by the applicant or agency, may make a  
2 recommendation as to the acceptability of the final statement.

3 The authority to accept a final statement shall rest with  
4 the agency initially receiving and agreeing to process the  
5 request for approval. The final decision-making body or  
6 approving agency for the request for approval is not required to  
7 be the accepting authority. The planning department for the  
8 county in which the proposed action will occur shall be a  
9 permissible accepting authority for the final statement.

10 Acceptance of a required final statement shall be a  
11 condition precedent to approval of the request and commencement  
12 of the proposed action. Upon acceptance or nonacceptance of the  
13 final statement, the agency shall file notice of such  
14 determination with the office. The office, in turn, shall  
15 publish the determination of acceptance or nonacceptance of the  
16 final statement pursuant to section 343-3.

17 The agency receiving the request, within thirty days of  
18 receipt of the final statement, shall notify the applicant and  
19 the office of the acceptance or nonacceptance of the final  
20 statement. The final statement shall be deemed to be accepted  
21 if the agency fails to accept or not accept the final statement  
22 within thirty days after receipt of the final statement;



1 provided that the thirty-day period may be extended at the  
2 request of the applicant for a period not to exceed fifteen  
3 days.

4 In any acceptance or nonacceptance, the agency shall  
5 provide the applicant with the specific findings and reasons for  
6 its determination. An applicant, within sixty days after  
7 nonacceptance of a final statement by an agency, may appeal the  
8 nonacceptance to the environmental council, which, within thirty  
9 days of receipt of the appeal, shall notify the applicant of the  
10 council's determination. In any affirmation or reversal of an  
11 appealed nonacceptance, the council shall provide the applicant  
12 and agency with specific findings and reasons for its  
13 determination. The agency shall abide by the council's  
14 decision."

15 PART VI

16 SECTION 17. The provisions of this Act that repeal the  
17 laws that previously authorized geothermal resources subzones  
18 under chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not affect any  
19 geothermal resources producer who is operating within the area  
20 of the subzone as of the effective date of this Act. The  
21 geothermal resources producer shall continue to operate in





1 accordance with the lease with the board of land and natural  
2 resources.

3 SECTION 18. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 19. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



**Report Title:**

Geothermal Resources; Exploration; Subzones

**Description:**

Differentiates between "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" for purposes of mining leases and exploration permits. Designates "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" as permitted uses in all state land use districts and conservation district zones. Repeals geothermal resource subzone provisions under state land use law. Exempts geothermal resources exploration from environmental assessment and environmental impact statement requirement. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2690 HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

