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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 269-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           "**§269-6 General powers and duties.** (a) The public  
4 utilities commission shall have the general supervision  
5 hereinafter set forth over all public utilities, and shall  
6 perform the duties and exercise the powers imposed or conferred  
7 upon it by this chapter. Included among the general powers of  
8 the commission is the authority to adopt rules pursuant to  
9 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this chapter.

10           (b) The public utilities commission shall consider the  
11 need to reduce the State's reliance on fossil fuels through  
12 energy efficiency and increased renewable energy generation in  
13 exercising its authority and duties under this chapter. In  
14 making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs of  
15 utility system capital improvements and operations, the  
16 commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or  
17 qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil  
18 fuels on price volatility, export of funds for fuel imports,



1 fuel supply reliability risk, and greenhouse gas emissions. The  
2 commission may determine that short-term costs or direct costs  
3 that are higher than alternatives relying more heavily on fossil  
4 fuels are reasonable, considering the impacts resulting from the  
5 use of fossil fuels.

6 (c) The public utilities commission, in making its final  
7 determination on renewable energy projects, may take into  
8 consideration the economic impact of such projects, balancing  
9 costs to consumers, job creation, capital attraction, increased  
10 revenues, and other critical indicators; provided that the  
11 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall  
12 first provide the commission with the appropriate analysis for  
13 consideration.

14 [~~e~~] (d) The chairperson of the public utilities  
15 commission may appoint a hearings officer, who shall not be  
16 subject to chapter 76, to hear and recommend decisions in any  
17 proceeding before it other than a proceeding involving the rates  
18 or any other matters covered in the tariffs filed by the public  
19 utilities. The hearings officer shall have the power to take  
20 testimony, make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and  
21 recommend a decision; provided that the findings of fact, the  
22 conclusions of law, and the recommended decision shall be



1 reviewed and may be approved by the commission after notice to  
2 the parties and an opportunity to be heard. The hearings  
3 officer shall have all of the above powers conferred upon the  
4 public utilities commission under section 269-10."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Public Utilities Commission; Economic Analysis; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

**Description:**

Permits the public utilities commission to take certain economic considerations into account when making final determinations on renewable energy projects. Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to provide the public utilities commission with economic analysis information. (SD1)

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