

JAN 21 2011

S.B. NO. 874

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5 majority of electricity in Hawaii is generated in outdated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. This results in many
7 problems for Hawaii's economy and environment. Hawaii's
8 residents pay electric rates that are one hundred to two hundred
9 per cent higher than the national average. When oil prices
10 peaked in mid-2008, the average household electric bill on Oahu
11 was one hundred ninety-two per cent of the national average.
12 Average household electric bills on the neighbor islands were
13 even higher, resulting in hardships statewide for low income
14 families. The legislature further finds that the energy market
15 in Hawaii is dominated by one company that controls most of the
16 production and one hundred per cent of the distribution of
17 energy in the State, and, therefore, has little incentive to
18 develop alternatives. This amounts to a monopoly.



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

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

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

20 (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;

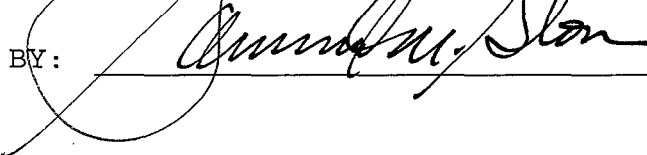
4 (3) Evaluate the short-term and long-term economic costs
5 and benefits of developing nuclear energy generation
6 facilities in Hawaii; and

7 (4) Study strategies for safely disposing, storing, or
8 reprocessing of 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 2012.

12 SECTION 3. The commission shall cease to exist on June 30,
13 2012.

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

15 INTRODUCED BY: 



Report Title:

Nuclear Energy; DBEDT

Description:

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

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

