
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The State's ambitious clean energy goals, along
2 with advances in energy technology, have created incentives for
3 the adoption of new energy systems technologies and equipment,
4 including distributed electrical systems such as solar panels
5 and energy storage.

6 Installation of these modern energy systems has been an
7 economic driver, reduced the State's dependence on imported oil,
8 and helped to protect the environment. However, the increase in
9 construction has placed additional burdens on some county
10 officers and employees. County officers and employees
11 responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving
12 projects, including officers and employees at county public
13 works departments, planning and permitting departments, and fire
14 departments, must now remain constantly informed about new
15 technology in the energy sector. The legislature finds, though,
16 that many of these county officers and employees are not
17 provided with the proper training and must either research the



1 standards themselves or pay for their own training. In
2 addition, the lack of training can lead to unnecessary delays in
3 the approval or implementation of a project.

4 The purpose of this Act is to create a program to provide
5 training to county officers and employees responsible for
6 permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving energy systems
7 and related technology.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§196- Energy systems and technology training. (a)
12 Energy systems and technology training courses shall be
13 established as needed to educate relevant officers and employees
14 of the counties on the various standards and requirements for
15 renewable energy systems and related distributed electricity
16 technologies, including energy storage. The courses, including
17 any materials necessary to implement the courses, shall be
18 developed, designed, prepared, and conducted by the University
19 of Hawaii community colleges, or by a public or private entity
20 contracted by the University of Hawaii community colleges.



1 (b) The energy systems and technology training courses may
2 include information on:

3 (1) New innovations in energy systems and technology, such
4 as recent advancements in distributed electricity
5 technologies and related interaction of these systems
6 and technologies with the electrical grid;

7 (2) The implementation of new and existing energy systems
8 and technology in compliance with international,
9 national, state, and county standards, including
10 building and fire codes; and

11 (3) Any other relevant topic pertaining to the various
12 standards and requirements for renewable energy
13 systems and related technology.

14 (c) The University of Hawaii community colleges shall:

15 (1) Administer the energy systems and technology training
16 courses;

17 (2) Provide notifications or advertisements of the courses
18 to relevant county officers and employees, including
19 employees at county public works departments, planning
20 and permitting departments, fire departments, and



1 others involved in the permitting, inspection,
2 licensing, and approval of construction projects; and
3 (3) Provide the courses at no cost to the participants or
4 for a fee, which may be refunded; provided that funds
5 are available for that purpose.

6 (d) The University of Hawaii community colleges may
7 designate its staff to conduct the energy systems and technology
8 training courses or contract with a public or private entity to
9 conduct the courses.

10 (e) Either the University of Hawaii community colleges or
11 an entity designated by the University of Hawaii community
12 colleges shall establish a committee composed of stakeholders,
13 including local and national industry representatives from
14 distributed energy systems providers, including solar and energy
15 storage systems, and county representatives from each county who
16 are familiar with the job duties performed by county officers
17 and employees who permit, inspect, license, approve, or
18 otherwise work with energy systems and technology. The
19 committee shall work closely with the staff of the University of
20 Hawaii community colleges and subject-matter experts to:



- 1 (1) Provide input and guidance on identifying the
2 necessary training areas in which to provide practical
3 training relevant to the range of duties performed by
4 county officers and employees in order to help to
5 eliminate unnecessary delays in permitting,
6 inspection, licensing, or approvals caused by a lack
7 of knowledge and training about energy systems and
8 technology;
- 9 (2) Provide input and guidance on identifying the related
10 and required training equipment to be incorporated
11 into the training program; and
- 12 (3) Assist with outreach and buy-in from county officers
13 and employees and constituents to enhance
14 participation in the training."

15 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii community colleges
16 shall submit a report to the legislature describing the progress
17 made in establishing energy systems and technology training
18 courses for county officers and employees as provided in this
19 Act no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
20 regular session of 2020.



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1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$130,000 or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for energy
 4 systems and technology training as provided for in this Act;
 5 provided that funds may be used to refund participant fees for
 6 training courses pursuant to section 196- (c) (3), Hawaii
 7 Revised Statutes.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
 9 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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H.B. NO. 560

Report Title:

Energy Systems and Technology; Training; County Officers and Employees; Appropriation

Description:

Requires UH community colleges to establish energy systems and technology training courses for county officers and employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving construction projects and an advisory committee of industry stakeholders and to submit a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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