

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has an aging
2 electrical infrastructure. According to the American Society of
3 Civil Engineer's 2019 Hawaii Infrastructure Report Card, outages
4 in Hawaii are mainly caused by equipment deterioration, cable
5 faults, automobile accidents, or vegetation. Although
6 significant capital investments have been made to upgrade and
7 strengthen utility poles, lines, and equipment against the
8 increasingly frequent severe storms in recent years, over half
9 of the existing infrastructure is older than forty years old and
10 soon will be approaching its expected life. The security and
11 resilience of Hawaii's critical electrical infrastructure are
12 fundamental to the health and welfare of the State's residents,
13 visitors, and employees. Recent weather events have further
14 highlighted the importance of a resilient electrical grid and
15 the restoration of electricity in a safe and efficient manner.

16 The legislature further finds that the construction and
17 maintenance of overhead and underground high voltage power lines



1 with distribution and transmission voltages require the
2 specialized skills of electrical workers, such as journeymen
3 linemen, foremen, and general foreman, who are all trained and
4 certified journeyman lineman. To address the need for
5 individuals qualified to work with high voltage power lines, the
6 legislature enacted Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013 (Act
7 65), which provided a limited exemption from electrician
8 licensing requirements for individuals employed by electrical
9 contractors who are retained by a public utility within the
10 State to perform high voltage work for the public utility and
11 who are deemed qualified by the public utility. Although the
12 legislature later extended the law for five more years through
13 Act 60, Session Laws of 2018 (Act 60), Act 60 sunsets on
14 June 30, 2023. Continued maintenance due to aging electrical
15 infrastructure is needed to keep Hawaii's grid resilient. The
16 legislature also finds that as Hawaii continues to experience a
17 shortage of electricians, splicers, and linemen in the State who
18 are experienced and qualified to work with high voltage, it is
19 necessary to make permanent the limited exemption from licensing
20 requirements for electricians.

21 The purpose of this Act is to make permanent:



(1) Act 65; and

(2) The requirement for the board of electricians and plumbers to submit to the legislature reports relating to high voltage work.

SECTION 2. Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section 4, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, section 2, is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval[~~7 provided that on June 30, 2023, this Act shall be repealed and section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the effective date of this Act~~]."

SECTION 3. Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is amended by amending section 3 to read as follows:

"SECTION 3. The board of electricians and plumbers shall submit reports to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of [~~the regular sessions of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.~~] each regular session. The reports shall include but not be limited to the following:



- 1 (1) Any programs in the State that offer vocational
2 training for licensed electricians to perform high
3 voltage electrical work;
4 (2) Availability of continuing education, training, or
5 both, necessary for licensed electricians to acquire
6 or keep current those skills related to performing
7 high voltage work;
8 (3) The number of licensed electricians in the State
9 qualified to perform high voltage electrical work; and
10 (4) Opportunities for growth in the high voltage work
11 subspecialty."

12 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
15

INTRODUCED BY: Rosaly H. Bala



S.B. NO. 2644

Report Title:

Electrical Contractors; Licensing; Exemptions; High Voltage

Description:

Makes permanent Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, which provides a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage (600 volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility. Also makes permanent the requirement for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers to submit to the Legislature reports regarding high voltage electrical contractors.

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

