S.B. NO. <sup>2644</sup> S.D. 2 H.D. 2

C.D. 1

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

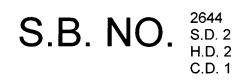
RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has an aging electrical infrastructure. According to the American Society of 2 Civil Engineers' 2019 Hawaii Infrastructure Report Card, outages 3 in Hawaii are mainly caused by equipment deterioration, cable 4 5 faults, automobile accidents, or vegetation. Although significant capital investments have been made to upgrade and 6 strengthen utility poles, lines, and equipment against the 7 increasingly frequent severe storms in recent years, over half 8 of the existing infrastructure is more than forty years old and 9 soon will be approaching the end of its expected life cycle. 10 11 The security and resilience of Hawaii's critical electrical 12 infrastructure are fundamental to the health and welfare of the 13 State's residents, visitors, and employees. Recent weather 14 events have further highlighted the importance of a resilient 15 electrical grid and the restoration of electricity in a safe and 16 efficient manner.

17 The legislature further finds that the construction and 18 maintenance of overhead high voltage power lines with 2022-3147 SB2644 CD1 SMA-1.doc

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

21 The purpose of this Act is to:



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1	(1)	Extend until June 30, 2027, the limited exemption from
2		licensing requirements for qualified electricians that
3		was originally enacted by Act 65, Session Laws of
4		Hawaii 2013, and extended pursuant to Act 60, Session
5		Laws of Hawaii 2018; and
6	(2)	Require public utilities to submit to the board of
7		electricians and plumbers annual reports relating to
8		high voltage work.
9	SECT	ION 2. Section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10	amended t	o read as follows:
11	"§44	8E-13 Exemption of public utility and community
12	antennae	television company personnel [-]; annual reports. (a)
13	The follo	
		wing persons shall be exempt from this chapter:
14	(1)	wing persons shall be exempt from this chapter: All employees of a public utility within the State
14 15		
		All employees of a public utility within the State
15		All employees of a public utility within the State under a franchise or charter granted by the State
15 16		All employees of a public utility within the State under a franchise or charter granted by the State [which] that is regulated by the public utilities
15 16 17		All employees of a public utility within the State under a franchise or charter granted by the State [which] that is regulated by the public utilities commission and community antennae television company,

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1	(A)	[ <del>Such</del> ] <u>The</u> contractor is retained by a public
2		utility within the State under a franchise or
3		charter granted by the State [ <del>which</del> ] <u>that</u> is
4		regulated by the public utilities commission to
5		perform high voltage [ <del>{six hundred volts or</del>
6		higher)] electrical work for the public utility;
7		[and]
8	<u>(B)</u>	After solicitation of a request for proposal to
9		licensed contractors specifying the high voltage
10		work requested, the public utility certifies to
11		the board that no electricians, including
12		electricians employed by C-62 pole and line or
13		C-63 high voltage electrical contractors,
14		responded to the request for proposal who were:
15		(i) Sufficiently qualified and licensed in the
16		State; and
17	-	(ii) Available and able to perform or timely
18		complete the high voltage electrical work or
19		task,
20		before the contractor hired by the public utility
21		recruited qualified electricians outside the





1		State; provided further that the public utility
2		shall make its request for proposals available
3		through its website in an electronic format to
4		C-62 pole and line and C-63 high voltage
5		electrical contractors;
6	<u>(C)</u>	The public utility submits an annual report to
7		the board covering the preceding calendar year
8		that identifies, at a minimum:
9		(i) The number of qualified contractors the
10		public utility employed to perform high
11		voltage electrical work; and
12		(ii) The number of requests for proposals
13		solicited for high voltage work;
14	[ <del>(B)</del>	Such] (D) The employees are deemed qualified by
15		the public utility to perform [ <del>such</del> ] high voltage
16		electrical work; and
17	<u>(E)</u>	The exemption is limited to the use by a public
18		utility for high voltage electrical workers who
19		perform electric transmission and distribution
20		line construction, maintenance, and connection to
21		substation work;



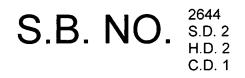
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1 provided further that in no circumstance shall [such] 2 the persons be less qualified than the public 3 utility's own employees [that] who perform [such] high voltage electrical work. 4 (b) Persons retained by a public utility pursuant to 5 6 [+] subsection[+] (a) (2) shall be exempt from the provisions of 7 section 444-9.5. (c) For purposes of this section, "high voltage" means six 8 9 hundred volts or higher." 10 SECTION 3. Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section 4, 11 as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, section 2, is 12 amended to read as follows: 13 "SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that on June 30, [2023,] 2027, this Act shall be 14 15 repealed and section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be 16 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the 17 effective date of this Act." 18 SECTION 4. Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is amended 19 by amending section 3 to read as follows: 20 "SECTION 3. The board of electricians and plumbers shall 21 submit reports to the legislature no later than twenty days

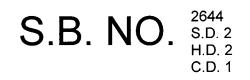
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1	prior to	the convening of the regular sessions of 2019, 2020,	
2	2021, 202	2, [ <del>and</del> ] 2023[ <del>.</del> ] <u>, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.</u> The	
3	reports s	hall include but not be limited to the following:	
4	(1)	Any programs in the State that offer vocational	
5		training for licensed electricians to perform high	
6		voltage electrical work;	
7	(2)	Availability of continuing education, training, or	
8		both, necessary for licensed electricians to acquire	
9		or keep current those skills related to performing	
10		high voltage work;	
11	(3)	The number of licensed electricians in the State	
12		qualified to perform high voltage electrical work; and	
13	(4)	Opportunities for growth in the high voltage work	
14		subspecialty."	
15	SECT	ION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed	
16	and stric	ken. New statutory material is underscored.	
17	SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022;		
18	provided that, notwithstanding the repeal and reenactment		
19	provision in section 4 of Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,		
20	as amended by section 2 of Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,		
21	and this	Act, subsection (c) of section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised	

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- 1 Statutes, as added by section 2 of this Act, shall not be
- 2 repealed when that section is reenacted on June 30, 2027,
- 3 pursuant to section 4 of Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as4 amended by this Act.





Report Title:

Electrical Contractors; Licensing; Exemptions; High Voltage; Reports

#### Description:

Extends until 6/30/2027 Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, 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 (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility, provided that the public utility certifies to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers that, after solicitation of a request for proposal, no electrician responded to the request who was sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State and was available and able to perform or timely complete the high voltage electrical work or task before the public utility recruited outside the State. (CD1)

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

