
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's pursuit
2 of all viable forms of local renewable energy, in order to meet
3 the one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard by 2045,
4 is an issue of statewide concern.

5 The legislature further finds that a better understanding
6 of geothermal resources and carbon sequestration potential
7 across the State can have multiple benefits. Resource
8 characterization via slim-hole bores, which have a diameter of
9 seven inches or less for over ninety per cent of the depth of
10 the bore, can identify geothermal and carbon sequestration
11 resources across the State.

12 The legislature further finds that a statewide
13 environmental assessment of a slim-hole exploration program
14 should be conducted, along with robust and continued community
15 engagement, in order to identify the most appropriate locations
16 for this scientific activity.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii state
2 energy office to conduct a statewide environmental assessment
3 for, and subsequently administer, a slim-hole resource
4 characterization program to identify geothermal and carbon
5 sequestration resources in the State.

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

9 "§196- Carbon sequestration and underground resource

10 characterization program. (a) The Hawaii state energy office

11 shall conduct a statewide environmental assessment for a slim-

12 hole resource characterization program under the direction of

13 the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at the

14 university of Hawaii that identifies the location and

15 characteristics of underground geothermal and carbon

16 sequestration resources across the State. In accordance with

17 the statewide environmental assessment, the Hawaii state energy

18 office shall administer the slim-hole resource characterization

19 program under the direction of the Hawaii groundwater and

20 geothermal resources center at the university of Hawaii.



1 (b) Before and during the environmental assessment and
2 slim-hole resource characterization program, the Hawaii state
3 energy office, supported by the Hawaii groundwater and
4 geothermal resources center, shall engage with the counties and
5 nearby communities, including individuals and civic
6 organizations, in order to understand community needs,
7 priorities, and concerns with regard to the program."

8 SECTION 3. The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a
9 progress report to the legislature two years after the slim-hole
10 resource characterization program has commenced and a final
11 report to the legislature at the conclusion of the program. The
12 findings and reports shall be made available to the public in
13 readily accessible formats, including commonly used mapping
14 software.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the energy
16 security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the purposes
18 of this Act.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
20 energy office for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 4 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position to support
 5 the activities of this Act.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
 7 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 6. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
 9 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
 10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
 11 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
 12 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
 13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
 14 appropriations contained in this Act will cause the general fund
 15 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
 16 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
 17 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
 18 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
 19 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
 20 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
 21 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:



1 (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and

3 (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Energy Office; UH; Statewide Environmental Assessment; Slim-hole Exploration; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to conduct a statewide environmental assessment for, and subsequently administer, a slim-hole resource characterization program under the direction of the Hawaii Groundwater and Geothermal Resources Center at the University of Hawaii. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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