
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 a better
2 understanding of geothermal resources and carbon sequestration
3 potential across the State can have multiple benefits.

4 The legislature also finds that resource characterization
5 via slim-hole bores, which have a diameter of seven inches or
6 less for over ninety per cent of the depth of the bore, can
7 identify water and carbon sequestration resources across the
8 State.

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

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii state
15 energy office to conduct a statewide environmental assessment
16 for, and subsequently administer, a slim-hole resource



1 characterization program to identify geothermal resources and
2 carbon sequestration resources in the State.

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

6 "§196- Carbon sequestration and underground resource

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

8 shall conduct a statewide environmental assessment for a slim-

9 hole resource characterization program under the direction of

10 the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at the

11 university of Hawaii that identifies the location and

12 characteristics of underground geothermal and carbon

13 sequestration resources across the State. In accordance with

14 the statewide environmental assessment, the Hawaii state energy

15 office shall administer the slim-hole resource characterization

16 program under the direction of the Hawaii groundwater and

17 geothermal resources center at the university of Hawaii.

18 (b) Before and during the environmental assessment and

19 slim-hole resource characterization program, the Hawaii state

20 energy office, supported by the Hawaii groundwater and

21 geothermal resources center, shall engage with the counties and



1 nearby communities, including individuals and civic
2 organizations, in order to understand community needs,
3 priorities, and concerns with regard to the program."

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

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

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

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



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

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

- 17 (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to
18 serve the public interest; and
19 (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs
20 addressed by this Act.

21 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Nicole E. L...*
JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2105

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 a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

