

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that food insecurity
3 remains a significant challenge for many individuals and
4 families throughout the State. Food insecurity impacts
5 approximately one in six Hawaii residents, including nearly one
6 in four children. In 2022, more than eighty-two thousand
7 children were projected to struggle with hunger, and Hawaii had
8 the second highest projected rate of child food insecurity in
9 the nation.

10 The legislature also finds that the State has committed to
11 increasing the amount of locally grown food to help improve food
12 security and self-sufficiency. The legislature further finds
13 that there are many acres of suitable farmland currently being
14 used solely for renewable energy projects that could
15 simultaneously help support both the State's renewable energy
16 and food security goals.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to increase food
2 security throughout the State by requiring the Hawaii state
3 energy office, in collaboration with the department of
4 agriculture and department of land and natural resources, to
5 facilitate the private sector's development of renewable energy
6 projects that also support agricultural food production.

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

10 "§196- State support for achieving local renewable
11 energy development and food security. In collaboration with the
12 department of agriculture and department of land and natural
13 resources, the Hawaii state energy office shall facilitate the
14 private sector's development of renewable energy projects that
15 also support agricultural food production by:

16 (1) Identifying and publishing a list of lands hosting
17 renewable energy projects that also have the potential
18 to concurrently support local agricultural food
19 production;

20 (2) Developing a program to maximize the agricultural use
21 of lands hosting renewable energy projects; and



1 to alter and remove contaminants--can help return contaminated
2 lands back to productive agricultural use. In addition, non-
3 food crops used for phytoremediation can be used for biofuel
4 production until the land is suitable again for agriculture,
5 providing a separate benefit that also furthers the State's
6 renewable energy goals.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to establish a
8 phytoremediation biofuels pilot program to determine whether
9 phytoremediation can be implemented as part of a long-term
10 strategy to support the State's local renewable energy and food
11 security goals.

12 SECTION 5. (a) There is established within the Hawaii
13 state energy office a three-year phytoremediation biofuels pilot
14 program. The Hawaii state energy office shall collaborate with
15 the department of agriculture and department of land and natural
16 resources to create a pilot program that shall:

- 17 (1) Identify suitable phytoremediation crops that can be
18 used as biofuel feedstocks;
- 19 (2) Identify contaminated agricultural lands that are
20 suitable for phytoremediation; and



1 (3) Implement the planting of one or more of the
2 identified crops in selected contaminated agricultural
3 land areas for the purpose of phytoremediation.

4 (b) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit to the
5 governor and legislature a report no later than twenty days
6 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027. The
7 report shall describe the overall effectiveness of the pilot
8 program and shall include a cost-benefit analysis and
9 recommendation as to the feasibility of pursuing
10 phytoremediation as part of a long-term strategy to support the
11 State's local renewable energy and food security goals.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
15 establish and fund the phytoremediation biofuels pilot program.

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

18 PART III

19 SECTION 7. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
20 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
21 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined



S.B. NO. 2675

1 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the
2 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
3 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
4 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
5 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the
6 public interest and to meet the needs addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 8. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

9

INTRODUCED BY: ^{BR} Lynn DeLoite



S.B. NO. 2675

Report Title:

HSEO; DOA; DLNR; Renewable Energy Development and Food Security; Phytoremediation Biofuels Pilot Program; Report to Legislature; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources, to facilitate the private sector's development of renewable energy projects that also support agricultural food production. Establishes within the Hawaii State Energy Office a three-year Phytoremediation Biofuels Pilot Program to be conducted by the Hawaii State Energy Office in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources and requires a report to the Governor and Legislature. Makes appropriations and establishes a position within the Hawaii State Energy office to serve as an interagency liaison.

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

