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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION  
POTENTIAL AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a better  
2 understanding of carbon sequestration potential and the location  
3 and temperature of underground water resources across the State  
4 can have multiple benefits to agriculture, clean energy, and  
5 land use.

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

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



1       The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
2   business, economic development, and tourism to implement a  
3   carbon sequestration and underground water resource  
4   characterization program that identifies the location and  
5   characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration  
6   resources across the State and, in collaboration with the Hawaii  
7   groundwater and geothermal resources center at the university of  
8   Hawaii, conduct an environmental assessment of the program's  
9   actions and implement the program.

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

13       "§196-     Carbon sequestration and underground water  
14   resource characterization program.   (a) There is established  
15   the carbon sequestration and underground water resource  
16   characterization program within the department of business,  
17   economic development, and tourism to identify the location and  
18   characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration  
19   resources across the State using the slim-hole boring  
20   exploration method. The department of business, economic  
21   development, and tourism shall implement the program, which



1 shall include conducting a statewide environmental assessment of  
2 the program's actions pursuant to chapter 343, in collaboration  
3 with the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at  
4 the university of Hawaii or similar institution.

5 (b) Before and during the statewide environmental  
6 assessment for the carbon sequestration and underground water  
7 resource characterization program activities, the department of  
8 business, economic development, and tourism and collaborators  
9 shall meet with the counties and nearby communities, including  
10 individuals and civic organizations, to explain the purpose of  
11 the program and identify community needs, priorities, concerns,  
12 and appropriate locations to conduct the slim-hole boring for  
13 the program."

14 SECTION 3. The department of business, economic  
15 development, and tourism shall submit a progress report on the  
16 carbon sequestration and underground water resource  
17 characterization program, including its findings,  
18 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 the regular session of 2028. The report shall be made available



1 to the public in readily accessible formats, including commonly  
2 used mapping software.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the energy  
4 security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof  
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum  
6 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027  
7 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
9 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
10 of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of full-time  
16 equivalent ( FTE) permanent positions to support the  
17 activities described by this Act.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
20 of this Act.

21 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;  
Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; Geothermal Exploration;  
Report; Positions; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes a Carbon Sequestration and Underground Water  
Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and  
requires a related statewide environmental assessment. Requires  
a report to the Legislature. Establishes positions.  
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

