

JAN 23 2025

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Kohala mountains  
2 on Hawaii island represent an ideal location for a water pump  
3 storage hydroelectric facility due to the unique geography of  
4 the region. The elevation of the mountains facilitates the  
5 downhill flow of water through a series of reservoirs to  
6 generate electricity. Wind turbines are a complementary source  
7 of renewable energy that would increase the generation of  
8 electricity. In the evenings when the demand for electricity is  
9 lower, the energy generated by the wind turbines would be used  
10 to pump the water stored in reservoirs at lower elevations to  
11 reservoirs at higher elevations, preparing it for the next day's  
12 energy needs.

13           The legislature further finds that the State needs a  
14 comprehensive water plan for both potable and irrigation water,  
15 a comprehensive agricultural plan that includes local production  
16 and processing, and a comprehensive renewable energy plan that  
17 complements agriculture. The water pump storage hydroelectric



1 facility is a critical component of these comprehensive plans as  
2 it provides a source of potable water, water for irrigation, and  
3 reduces energy costs. The legislature also finds that the  
4 premium tract of land located in the Kohala mountains for the  
5 construction of this facility is owned by the department of  
6 Hawaiian home lands. Construction of the water pump storage  
7 hydroelectric facility would increase the availability of  
8 potable water, attracting more native Hawaiians to the area.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
10 issuance of general obligation bonds to the department of  
11 Hawaiian home lands to finance the planning, designing, and  
12 construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in  
13 the Kohala mountains on Hawaii island.

14 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
15 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
17 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2025-2026  
18 for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, and  
19 construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in  
20 the Kohala mountains on Hawaii island.



1           SECTION 3. The sum appropriated in section 2 of this Act  
2 shall be expended by the department of Hawaiian home lands for  
3 the purposes of this Act.

4           SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
5 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
6 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
7 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
8 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

9           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

10  
INTRODUCED BY:

*Ken M. Rabe*



# S.B. NO. 1656

**Report Title:**

DHHL; Kohala; Water Pump Storage Hydroelectric; Renewable Energy; GO Bonds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to finance the planning, designing, and construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in the Kohala Mountains on Hawaii Island.

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

