

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1674

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 28

, 2025

RE: H.R. No. 54
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which
was referred H.R. No. 54 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE
TO CONVENE A GEOTHERMAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE
REGULATORY AND POLICY LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING GEOTHERMAL ENERGY
IN HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Hawaii State
Energy Office to convene a Geothermal Energy Working Group to
evaluate the regulatory and policy landscape surrounding
geothermal energy in Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Public Utilities
Commission; Coalition Earth; Life of the Land; Ulupono Initiative;
and seven individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from the Energy Justice Network;
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and three
individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Hawaii
State Energy Office.

Your Committee finds that geothermal energy has the potential
to be a critical component of Hawaii's renewable energy portfolio.

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However, regulatory uncertainty, permitting challenges, and land use restrictions have hindered its development. This measure convenes stakeholders to collaboratively assess the challenges and opportunities for geothermal expansion in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees with primary subject matter purview over energy to the Working Group;
- (2) Changing the deadline for the report to the Legislature; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 54, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 54, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,


NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1674

Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HR54</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">EEP, CPC</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">3/18/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) </div>				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
4. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean				✓
6. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (6)	4			2
The recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div> </div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				