

ACT 235

H.B. NO. 2376-74

A Bill for an Act Establishing the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute and Making an Appropriation for Planning the Structure and Operation Thereof.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The current energy crisis is caused by a global energy shortage which will worsen through the remainder of this decade and may continue to the end of this century. The State of Hawaii, with its total dependence for energy on imported fossil fuel, is particularly vulnerable to dislocations in the global energy market. This is an anomalous situation, as there are few places in the world so generously endowed with natural energy: geothermal, solar radiation, ocean temperature differential, wind, waves, and currents—all potential non-polluting power sources. The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute that will coordinate and undertake the development of non-polluting natural energy sources for Hawaii; and, to make an appropriation for planning the structure and subsequent operation of the Institute. Although the ultimate structure of the Institute will not be determined until after a year of planning and development, its immediate establishment as provided herein will provide

the needed visibility, focus and encouragement for energy related activities directed toward converting Hawaii's natural resources into viable energy systems. These alternative energy systems will:

- (1) Diminish Hawaii's total dependence on imported fossil fuels,
- (2) Meet the State's increasing energy demands with little or no environmental degradation, and
- (3) Contribute to the technology base for finding solutions to the national and global energy shortage.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Natural Energy Institute is hereby established as a research unit at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. The President of the University of Hawaii will appoint from appropriate University staff an Energy Planning Committee and designate its chairman. This Committee will serve as a steering committee and the Chairman shall be the Acting Director of the Institute during the initial year both for carrying out the operations and functions of the Institute and for planning the ultimate organizational structure. Nationally recognized energy planners may be consulted on specific goals and general organizational structure of the Energy Institute. The President will also appoint a broadly based Policy Advisory Committee to provide interaction between interested segments of the community and the Energy Planning Committee. A report containing recommendations for the structure and subsequent operation of the Energy Institute will be prepared by the Energy Planning Committee for presentation to the Legislature twenty (20) days before the beginning of the 1975 Session.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be expended by the University of Hawaii for planning the structure and subsequent operation of the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, and for the hiring of necessary staff and consultants during the next fiscal year.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect July 1, 1974.

(Approved June 14, 1974.)