

## ACT 237

S.B. NO. 1391-74

A Bill for an Act Creating the Position of Energy Resources Coordinator in the Office of the Governor.

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

**SECTION 1. Findings and declaration of necessity.** The legislature finds that:

(a) There is widespread shortage of petroleum and its derivatives which has caused severe economic hardships throughout the State and which threatens to impair the public health, safety and welfare.

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.

(b) There is a real need for comprehensive planning in the effort towards achieving full utilization of Hawaii's energy resource programs and the most effective allocation of energy resources throughout the State. Planning is necessary and desirable in order that the State may recognize and declare the major problems and opportunities in the field of energy resources. Both short-range and long-range planning will permit the articulation of broad policies, goals, and objectives; criteria for measuring and evaluating accomplishments of objectives; identification and implementation of programs which will carry out such objectives; and a determination of requirements necessary for the optimum development of Hawaii's energy resources. Such planning efforts will identify present conditions and major problems relating to energy resources, their exploration, development, production, and distribution. It will show the projected nature of the situation and rate of change and present conditions for the foreseeable future based on a projection of current trends in the development of energy resources in Hawaii.

(c) There are many agencies of the federal, state, and county governments in Hawaii, as well as many private agencies, engaged in, or expressing an interest in, various aspects of the exploration, research, distribution,

conservation, and production of all forms of energy resources in Hawaii. Some of these agencies include the university of Hawaii, the department of land and natural resources, the department of planning and economic development, the consumer protection, the federal energy office, and various county agencies, as well as the oil companies, gas stations, and other private enterprises.

(d) There is immediate need to coordinate the efforts of all these agencies, establish and coordinate programs to effectuate the conservation of fuel, to provide for the equitable distribution thereof, and to formulate plans for the development and use of alternative energy sources. There is a need for such coordination so that there will be maximum conservation and utilization of energy resources in the State.

**SECTION 2. Definitions.** As used in this Act, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Coordinator" means the energy resources coordinator.

(b) "Energy resources" means and includes fossil fuel, nuclear, geothermal, solar, hydropower, wind, and other means of generating energy.

**SECTION 3. Establishment of energy resources coordinator.** The position of energy resources coordinator is established in the office of the governor. The governor shall appoint and remove the coordinator, who shall not be subject to chapters 76 and 77. The salary of the coordinator shall be set by the governor and shall not be more than the salaries of department heads as prescribed in section 26-52(2). The coordinator shall be included in any benefit program generally applicable to the officers and employees of the State.

**SECTION 4. Powers and duties.** Subject to the approval of the governor, the coordinator shall:

(a) Formulate plans, including objectives, criteria to measure accomplishment of objectives, programs through which the objectives are to be attained, and financial requirements for the optimum development of Hawaii's energy resources;

(b) Conduct systematic analysis of existing and proposed energy resource programs, evaluate the analysis conducted by government agencies and other organizations and recommend to the governor and to the legislature programs which represent the most effective allocation of resources for the development of energy sources;

(c) Formulate and recommend specific proposals, as necessary, for conserving energy and fuel, including the allocation and distribution thereof, to the governor and to the legislature;

(d) Assist public and private agencies in implementing energy conservation and related measures;

(e) Coordinate the State's energy conservation and allocation programs with that of the federal government, other state governments, governments of nations with interest in common energy resources, and the political subdivisions of the State;

(f) Develop programs to encourage private and public exploration and research of alternative energy resources which will benefit the State;

(g) Conduct public education programs to inform the public of the energy situation as may exist from time to time and of the government actions taken thereto;

(h) Serve as consultant to the governor, public agencies and private industry on matters related to the acquisition, utilization and conservation of energy resources;

(i) Contract for services when required for implementation of this Act;

(j) Review proposed state actions which he finds to have significant effect on energy consumption and report to the governor their effect on the energy conservation program, and perform such other services as may be required by the governor and the legislature; and

(k) Prepare and submit an annual report and such other reports as may be requested to the governor and to the legislature on the implementation of this Act and all matters related to energy resources.

**SECTION 5. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be expended by the office of the governor for the purposes of this Act.

**SECTION 6. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1974.

(Approved June 14, 1974.)