



## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT BILLS UPDATE

In keeping with this month's topic of sustainability, energy efficiency and green industries, here is a compilation of a number of Senate Bills that are still alive and moving through the legislative process. More information on these bills can be accessed through measure status on the Capitol Website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

SB2288 - RELATING TO ENERGY: Establishes the negotiated partner approach pilot program for energy savings contracts, which allows agencies to forego requests for proposals and negotiate directly with qualified vendors. Requires the pilot program to be operational from 7/1/12 to 6/30/14.

SB2666 SD1 - RELATING TO ENERGY: Creates an income tax credit for development and construction costs for qualifying biofuel production facilities. Repeals 1/1/2029. Defines "oil refinery". Clarifies that an environmental assessment is required for an action proposing the expansion of an existing oil refinery. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (SD1)

SB2782 SD1 - RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: Appropriate funds to the department of land and natural resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health. (SD1)

SB2785 SD1 - RELATING TO INTERISLAND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CABLE SYSTEMS: Establishes a regulatory structure for the installation and implementation of an interisland high voltage electric

SB2966 SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY: Increases maximum allowable customer-generator capacity for net energy metering systems to two megawatts if the generating facility is sited on property owned or controlled by the State of Hawaii. Increases maximum allowable customer-generator capacity for net energy metering systems to one megawatt for all other systems. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (SD1)

SB2981 SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY: Requires the PUC to direct electric utilities to include plans to utilize indigenous, renewable energy sources, including geothermal resources, ca-

SB3003 SD1 - RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES: Differentiates between "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development". Designates "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" as permitted uses in all state land use districts and conservation district zones. Repeals geothermal resource subzone provisions under state land use law. (SD1)

SB3013 SD1 - RELATING TO DLNR: Establishes a forest carbon offsets program in the department of land and natural resources. Creates a process for local businesses, individuals, and land owners to invest in forest carbon offsets that would provide incentives for retaining conservation land or practicing carbon emission reduction activities. (SD1)

*This measure has garnered a large amount of testimony. Sen. Ryan would like to hear back from constituents about their position on the proposal for a 10 cent fee on single-use check out bags.*

### **SB2511— Environmental Protection; Single-use Checkout Bags; Fee**

Requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer. Allows businesses to keep twenty per cent of the fees for the first year of the program and ten per cent of the fees thereafter, subject to income and general excises taxes. Requires fees to be collected on single-use checkout bags not prohibited by county ordinance. Deposits all fees into a special account in the environmental management special fund. Requires first \$800,000 of all fees collected to be expended by DOH for costs relating to administrative, education, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with the fee. Requires any remaining fees collected to be deposited in the environmental response revolving fund and the natural area reserve fund. Requires reports to the legislature. (SD1)



## Legislative Report Continued...

### SENATE PASSES THE INVEST IN HAWAII ACT OF 2012 (SENATE BILL 2012)

On February 21st the Senate unanimously passed The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012 (Senate Bill 2012). The bill will go to the House next for consideration.

Garnering bipartisan support, Senate Bill 2012, is an aggressive \$500 million general obligation bond-funded Capital Improvement Program package aimed at creating jobs by investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the state.

“We are proud of this legislation, which has united all members of the Senate,” said Senate President Shan Tsutsui. “This bill will get our economic engine going and create much-needed jobs that will get thousands of people off the bench and back to work.”

With Hawaii experiencing the lowest interest rates on record and significant savings made from the State’s most recent bond authorization and issuance, now is the time to invest in our State. The program will appropriate funds for shovel-ready projects that will create jobs for all trades in the construction industry—from carpenters to consultants. According to conservative estimates by DBEDT’s job multiplier, this measure could create or sustain more than 5,000 jobs.

#### **Funding highlights:**

–\$150,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects and to address infrastructure needs, such as science and technology, electricity, and other utility infrastructure improvements, within the public school system.

–\$3,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects within the Hawaii State Library system.

–\$90,000,000 for capital renewal and deferred maintenance projects of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

–\$25,000,000 for capital renewal and deferred maintenance projects within the University of Hawaii community college system.

–\$60,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects of the Department of Accounting and General Services.

–\$40,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects of the Department of Human Services.

#### **FYI: First Crossover Deadline**

March 8, 2012 marks the 27th day of the 2012 Legislative Session. This is the last day for a final vote within each respective legislative body. Bills then cross-over and continue the hearing process within their non-originating body (either the Senate or the House of Representatives).

