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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY TRAINING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The State's ambitious clean energy goals, along  
2 with advances in energy technology, have created incentives for  
3 the adoption of new technology, energy systems, and equipment,  
4 including solar panels and energy storage batteries.

5           While installation of these modern energy systems has been  
6 an economic driver of the economy, reduced the State's  
7 dependence on imported oil, and helped to protect the  
8 environment, the increased construction has placed additional  
9 burdens on some county and state employees. Employees  
10 responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving  
11 construction projects, including employees at county public  
12 works departments, employees at planning and permitting  
13 departments, and firefighters, must now also remain constantly  
14 informed of new technology in the energy sector. However, the  
15 legislature finds that many of these employees are not provided  
16 with the proper training and must either research the standards  
17 themselves or pay for their own training. In addition, the lack



1 of training can sometimes lead to unnecessary delays in the  
2 approval or implementation of a project.

3 The purpose of this Act is to create a program to provide  
4 training to the state and county employees responsible for  
5 permitting, licensing, inspecting, reviewing, and approving  
6 building energy systems and related technology.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§196- Energy systems and technology training. (a)

11 The department of business, economic development, and tourism  
12 shall establish, design, supervise, and conduct energy systems  
13 and technology training courses as needed to educate relevant  
14 officers and employees of the State and counties on the various  
15 standards and requirements for renewable energy systems and  
16 related technology. The department of business, economic  
17 development, and tourism shall develop the methods and prepare  
18 any materials necessary to implement the courses.

19 (b) The energy systems and technology training courses  
20 shall include information on:



- 1        (1) New innovations in energy systems and technology, such  
2        as recent advancements in energy storage and the  
3        interaction of energy systems and technology with the  
4        electrical grid;
- 5        (2) The implementation of new and existing energy systems  
6        and technology in compliance with international,  
7        national, state, and county standards, including  
8        building and fire codes; and
- 9        (3) Any other relevant topic pertaining to the various  
10       standards and requirements for renewable energy  
11       systems and related technology.
- 12       (c) The department of business, economic development, and  
13 tourism shall:
- 14       (1) Administer the energy systems and technology training  
15       courses;
- 16       (2) Provide notifications or advertisements of the courses  
17       to relevant state and county employees, including  
18       employees at county public works departments,  
19       employees at planning and permitting departments,  
20       firefighters, and others involved in the permitting,



1 inspecting, licensing, and approving of construction  
2 projects; and

3 (3) Provide the courses at no cost to the participants.

4 (d) The department of business, economic development, and  
5 tourism may designate those of its staff who are to conduct the  
6 energy systems and technology training courses or contract with  
7 a public or private entity to conduct the courses."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Nicole E. Lower

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JAN 25 2017



# H.B. NO. 1543

**Report Title:**

Energy Systems and Technology; Training; State Employees; County Employees

**Description:**

Requires DBEDT to establish an optional energy training course for state and county employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving construction projects that contain renewable energy systems and related technology.

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

