

JAN 22 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OFFSHORE DRILLING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal
2 government, through the executive authority of President Donald
3 Trump, has proposed a program to vastly expand offshore drilling
4 for oil or natural gas. This program includes opening up
5 Pacific ocean waters near Alaska and the western coast of the
6 continental United States to potential offshore oil or natural
7 gas drilling.

8 The legislature further finds that, although Hawaii has no
9 proven petroleum or natural gas reserves or production, the
10 State does produce petroleum products and crude oil is refined
11 within the State. The feedstock used to refine crude oil is
12 most often light sweet crude oil imported from producers in the
13 Pacific rim.

14 The legislature additionally finds that while petroleum
15 fired power plants supplied more than three-fourths of Hawaii's
16 utility-scale net electricity generation for most of the past
17 twenty years, the prominence of petroleum generated electricity



1 has declined recently. In 2014, for the first time, the State's
2 net electricity generation from petroleum was below seventy per
3 cent. However, in 2018, the total amount of petroleum-fired
4 generation increased for the first time in three years,
5 generating sixty-nine per cent of the State's net generation.

6 The legislature also finds that the State is committed to
7 the promotion and development of renewable and sustainable
8 energy. Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established a goal
9 of one hundred per cent renewable energy in Hawaii by
10 December 31, 2045.

11 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit:

- 12 (1) Offshore drilling for oil or natural gas in state
13 marine waters; and
14 (2) Issuance of permits for or in connection with the
15 development or operation of any facility or
16 infrastructure associated with offshore drilling for
17 oil or natural gas in state waters.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 190D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
20 and to read as follows:



1 "§190D- Offshore oil and gas exploration in state
2 waters; applications in support of oil and gas exploration;
3 prohibited. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
4 offshore drilling for oil or natural gas shall be prohibited in
5 state marine waters.

6 (b) No permit shall be issued for or in connection with
7 the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure
8 associated with offshore drilling for oil or natural gas within
9 state waters."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

12

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 370

Report Title:

Offshore Drilling; Oil and Natural Gas; State Waters;
Infrastructure; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits offshore drilling for oil or natural gas in state marine waters. Prohibits issuance of permits for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with offshore drilling for oil or natural gas in state waters.

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