



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1168**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

**JUN 17 2022**

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on **JUN 17 2022**, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2644 SD2 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.  
**ACT 068**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Y. Ige".

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has an aging  
2       electrical infrastructure. According to the American Society of  
3       Civil Engineers' 2019 Hawaii Infrastructure Report Card, outages  
4       in Hawaii are mainly caused by equipment deterioration, cable  
5       faults, automobile accidents, or vegetation. Although  
6       significant capital investments have been made to upgrade and  
7       strengthen utility poles, lines, and equipment against the  
8       increasingly frequent severe storms in recent years, over half  
9       of the existing infrastructure is more than forty years old and  
10      soon will be approaching the end of its expected life cycle.  
11      The security and resilience of Hawaii's critical electrical  
12      infrastructure are fundamental to the health and welfare of the  
13      State's residents, visitors, and employees. Recent weather  
14      events have further highlighted the importance of a resilient  
15      electrical grid and the restoration of electricity in a safe and  
16      efficient manner.

17      The legislature further finds that the construction and  
18      maintenance of overhead high voltage power lines with



1 distribution and transmission voltages require the specialized  
2 skills of electrical workers, such as journeymen linemen,  
3 foremen, and general foremen, each of whom is a trained and  
4 certified journeyman lineman. To address the need for  
5 individuals qualified to work with high voltage power lines, the  
6 legislature enacted Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, which  
7 provided a limited exemption from electrician licensing  
8 requirements for individuals employed by electrical contractors  
9 who are retained by a public utility within the State to perform  
10 high voltage work for the public utility and who are deemed  
11 qualified by the public utility. Although the legislature later  
12 extended the law for five more years through Act 60, Session  
13 Laws of Hawaii 2018 (Act 60), Act 60 sunsets on June 30, 2023.  
14 Continued maintenance of the aging electrical infrastructure is  
15 needed to keep Hawaii's grid resilient. The legislature also  
16 finds that as Hawaii continues to experience a shortage of  
17 electricians, splicers, and linemen in the State who are  
18 experienced and qualified to work with high voltage, it is  
19 necessary to further extend the limited exemption from licensing  
20 requirements for qualified electricians.

21 The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1           (1)   Extend until June 30, 2027, the limited exemption from  
2               licensing requirements for qualified electricians that  
3               was originally enacted by Act 65, Session Laws of  
4               Hawaii 2013, and extended pursuant to Act 60, Session  
5               Laws of Hawaii 2018; and
- 6           (2)   Require public utilities to submit to the board of  
7               electricians and plumbers annual reports relating to  
8               high voltage work.

9           SECTION 2.   Section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10   amended to read as follows:

11           "§448E-13   Exemption of public utility and community  
12   antennae television company personnel[-]; annual reports.   (a)

13   The following persons shall be exempt from this chapter:

- 14           (1)   All employees of a public utility within the State  
15               under a franchise or charter granted by the State  
16               ~~[which]~~ that is regulated by the public utilities  
17               commission and community antennae television company,  
18               while so employed; and
- 19           (2)   Employees of an electrical contractor duly licensed  
20               under chapter 444; provided that:



1 (A) [~~Such~~] The contractor is retained by a public  
2 utility within the State under a franchise or  
3 charter granted by the State [~~which~~] that is  
4 regulated by the public utilities commission to  
5 perform high voltage [~~(six hundred volts or~~  
6 ~~higher)~~] electrical work for the public utility;  
7 [and]

8 (B) After solicitation of a request for proposal to  
9 licensed contractors specifying the high voltage  
10 work requested, the public utility certifies to  
11 the board that no electricians, including  
12 electricians employed by C-62 pole and line or  
13 C-63 high voltage electrical contractors,  
14 responded to the request for proposal who were:

15 (i) Sufficiently qualified and licensed in the  
16 State; and

17 (ii) Available and able to perform or timely  
18 complete the high voltage electrical work or  
19 task,

20 before the contractor hired by the public utility  
21 recruited qualified electricians outside the



1           State; provided further that the public utility  
2           shall make its request for proposals available  
3           through its website in an electronic format to  
4           C-62 pole and line and C-63 high voltage  
5           electrical contractors;

6           (C) The public utility submits an annual report to  
7           the board covering the preceding calendar year  
8           that identifies, at a minimum:

9           (i) The number of qualified contractors the  
10           public utility employed to perform high  
11           voltage electrical work; and

12           (ii) The number of requests for proposals  
13           solicited for high voltage work;

14           ~~[(B) Such]~~ (D) The employees are deemed qualified by  
15           the public utility to perform [such] high voltage  
16           electrical work; and

17           (E) The exemption is limited to the use by a public  
18           utility for high voltage electrical workers who  
19           perform electric transmission and distribution  
20           line construction, maintenance, and connection to  
21           substation work;



1 provided further that in no circumstance shall ~~[such]~~  
2 the persons be less qualified than the public  
3 utility's own employees ~~[that]~~ who perform ~~[such]~~ high  
4 voltage electrical work.

5 (b) Persons retained by a public utility pursuant to  
6 ~~[+]~~subsection~~[+]~~ (a) (2) shall be exempt from the provisions of  
7 section 444-9.5.

8 (c) For purposes of this section, "high voltage" means six  
9 hundred volts or higher."

10 SECTION 3. Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section 4,  
11 as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, section 2, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
14 provided that on June 30, ~~[2023,]~~ 2027, this Act shall be  
15 repealed and section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be  
16 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the  
17 effective date of this Act."

18 SECTION 4. Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is amended  
19 by amending section 3 to read as follows:

20 "SECTION 3. The board of electricians and plumbers shall  
21 submit reports to the legislature no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019, 2020,  
2 2021, 2022, [~~and~~] 2023[-], 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. The  
3 reports shall include but not be limited to the following:

4 (1) Any programs in the State that offer vocational  
5 training for licensed electricians to perform high  
6 voltage electrical work;

7 (2) Availability of continuing education, training, or  
8 both, necessary for licensed electricians to acquire  
9 or keep current those skills related to performing  
10 high voltage work;

11 (3) The number of licensed electricians in the State  
12 qualified to perform high voltage electrical work; and

13 (4) Opportunities for growth in the high voltage work  
14 subspecialty."

15 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022;  
18 provided that, notwithstanding the repeal and reenactment  
19 provision in section 4 of Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,  
20 as amended by section 2 of Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,  
21 and this Act, subsection (c) of section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised





1 Statutes, as added by section 2 of this Act, shall not be  
2 repealed when that section is reenacted on June 30, 2027,  
3 pursuant to section 4 of Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as  
4 amended by this Act.



S.B. NO. 2644  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 17 day of June , 2022

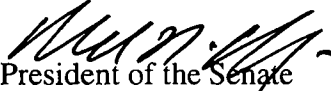
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David I. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "I".


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: May 3, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2022.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2644, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 3, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives