
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that reducing the cost of
2 electricity, protecting communities from pollution and toxic
3 emissions, and ensuring justice for communities that have been
4 impacted by past energy projects is a priority and a driving
5 reason why Hawaii has committed to achieving one hundred per
6 cent clean energy by 2045.

7 The legislature further finds that in Hawaii, wind energy
8 is now a significantly cheaper option for clean electricity than
9 any new fossil fuel generation, and will help lower the cost of
10 living for local residents. Wind energy also has the potential
11 to replace fossil fuel plants in communities on Oahu that have
12 long been subject to the impacts of fossil fuel emissions.
13 Communities around the country that are exposed to fossil fuel
14 emissions, including elevated levels of toxic pollutants, have
15 demonstrated higher rates of infant mortality, cancer, and a
16 diminished quality of life.



1 Wind energy has traditionally been sited on land, which can
2 raise issues of its own in some communities, but wind projects
3 around the world are now being built offshore where they have no
4 impact on local communities. Many of these floating wind
5 projects, when appropriately sited far from shore, have
6 demonstrated no impact on coastal shorelines, but have added
7 benefits to marine ecosystems as they become new offshore
8 gathering places for many marine species, decrease disruption
9 for large vessel traffic, and create new fishing grounds for
10 nearby communities.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to promote the
12 transition to cheaper, cleaner energy; reduce the impact of
13 fossil fuel generation on communities currently hosting fossil
14 fuel plants; and ensure the protection of coastal and nearshore
15 areas by establishing the number of miles from the shore that
16 offshore wind turbines must be sited.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to part IX to be appropriately
19 designated and to read as follows:

20 "§269- Grid access; offshore wind; prohibited. (a) No
21 user, owner, or operator of the Hawaii electric system shall



1 connect to an island electric grid of an offshore wind turbine
2 sited closer than miles from the shoreline of any main
3 Hawaiian island.

4 (b) The commission shall not approve the connection to an
5 island electric grid of an offshore wind turbine sited closer
6 than miles from the shoreline of any main Hawaiian island.

7 (c) As used in this section, "offshore wind turbine" means
8 any project in which electricity is generated from a wind
9 turbine sited seaward of a state shoreline."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

PUC; Energy; Offshore Wind; Grid Connection

Description:

Establishes the number of miles from the shore of a main Hawaiian island where offshore wind turbines may be sited.
(SD1)

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