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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the security and  
2 resilience of Hawaii's critical electrical infrastructure are  
3 fundamental to the health and welfare of the State and its  
4 residents. Recent weather events highlight the importance of a  
5 resilient electrical grid and the importance of restoring  
6 electricity in a safe and efficient manner.

7           The legislature further finds that the construction and  
8 maintenance of overhead and underground high voltage power lines  
9 with distribution and transmission voltages require the  
10 specialized skills of electrical workers, such as journeymen  
11 linemen, foremen, and general foreman, who are all trained  
12 certified journeyman lineman. To address a need for individuals  
13 qualified to work with high voltage power lines, the legislature  
14 enacted Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013 (Act 65). Act 65  
15 provided a limited exemption from electrician licensing  
16 requirements for individuals employed by electrical contractors  
17 who are retained by a public utility within the State to perform



1 high voltage work for the public utility and who are deemed  
2 qualified by the public utility. Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii  
3 2018 (Act 60) extended the exemption for five more years and  
4 required the board of electricians and plumbers to submit  
5 reports to the legislature related to high voltage work. The  
6 legislature notes that the limited exemption provided by Act 65  
7 and as extended by Act 60 is scheduled to sunset on June 30,  
8 2023. As the State continues to experience a shortage of  
9 electricians, splicers, and linemen who are experienced and  
10 qualified to work with high voltage, it is necessary to further  
11 extend the sunset date of Act 65, as extended by Act 60, and the  
12 associated reporting requirements of Act 60.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Specify that the exemption only applies to workers  
15 performing electric transmission and distribution line  
16 construction and maintenance and substation work; and  
17 (2) Extend the sunset date of Act 65, as extended by Act  
18 60, and reporting requirements of Act 60 for an  
19 additional five years.

20 SECTION 2. Section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1           "(a) The following persons shall be exempt from this  
2 chapter:

3           (1) All employees of a public utility within the State  
4           under a franchise or charter granted by the State  
5           ~~[which]~~ that is regulated by the public utilities  
6           commission and community antennae television company,  
7           while so employed; and

8           (2) Employees of an electrical contractor duly licensed  
9           under chapter 444; provided that:

10           (A) Such contractor is retained by a public utility  
11           within the State under a franchise or charter  
12           granted by the State ~~[which]~~ that is regulated by  
13           the public utilities commission to perform high  
14           voltage (six hundred volts or higher) electrical  
15           work for the public utility; ~~[and]~~

16           (B) Such employees are deemed qualified by the public  
17           utility to perform such high voltage electrical  
18           work; and

19           (C) Such employees only perform electric transmission  
20           and distribution line construction and  
21           maintenance and substation work;



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

5 SECTION 3. Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended  
6 by section 2 of Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is amended  
7 by amending section 4 to read as follows:

8 "SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
9 provided that on June 30, [~~2023,~~] 2028, this Act shall be  
10 repealed and section 448E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be  
11 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the  
12 effective date of this Act."

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

15 "SECTION 3. The board of electricians and plumbers shall  
16 submit reports to the legislature no later than twenty days  
17 prior to the convening of the regular [~~sessions~~] session of  
18 2019[~~, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.~~] and each regular session  
19 thereafter through 2028. The reports shall include but not be  
20 limited to the following:



- 1           (1) Any programs in the State that offer vocational
- 2           training for licensed electricians to perform high
- 3           voltage electrical work;
- 4           (2) Availability of continuing education, training, or
- 5           both, necessary for licensed electricians to acquire
- 6           or keep current those skills related to performing
- 7           high voltage work;
- 8           (3) The number of licensed electricians in the State
- 9           qualified to perform high voltage electrical work; and
- 10          (4) Opportunities for growth in the high voltage work
- 11          subspecialty."

12          SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14          SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.

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# H.B. NO. 1597 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Electrical Contractors; Public Utility; Licensing; Exemptions;  
High Voltage

**Description:**

Specifies that the limited exemption under Act 65, SLH 2013, to the electrician licensing requirements for individuals working with high voltage (600 volts or higher) is further limited to only electric transmission and distribution line construction and maintenance and substation work. Extends until 2028 the sunset date of Act 65, SLH 2013, and associated reporting requirements of the exemption under Act 60, SLH 2018. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD1)

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

