
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that despite the
2 increasing ability to generate electricity from alternative
3 energy sources, Hawaii remains dependent on imported fossil
4 fuels for more than eighty per cent of its energy generation.
5 The vast majority of electricity in Hawaii is generated in
6 outdated diesel and fossil fuel-powered facilities, resulting in
7 numerous environmental and economic problems. Electricity rates
8 in Hawaii are more than one hundred per cent higher than the
9 national average. At the peak of the oil crisis in mid-2008,
10 the average household electric bill on Oahu was nearly two
11 hundred per cent higher than the national average and rates on
12 the neighbor islands were even higher.

13 The legislature further finds that the energy market in
14 Hawaii is dominated by one company that controls most of the
15 production and nearly one hundred per cent of the distribution
16 of energy in the State, and, therefore, has little incentive to
17 develop alternatives. This amounts to a monopoly.



1 The legislature also finds that nuclear energy is a safe
2 and efficient alternative to fossil fuels and that nuclear power
3 generation facilities already exist in Hawaii in the form of the
4 United States Navy's nuclear-powered vessels berthed at Pearl
5 Harbor. Many areas throughout the continental United States,
6 Europe, and Asia produce electricity with nuclear energy.
7 France, for example, has constructed fifty-eight nuclear power
8 facilities that generate nearly ninety per cent of the country's
9 electricity. Just as in these other areas, the opportunity
10 exists in Hawaii to safely use nuclear energy to generate
11 electricity and substantially reduce the State's dependence on
12 expensive imported fossil fuels.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a nuclear energy
14 commission within the department of business, economic
15 development and tourism to study the feasibility, risks, and
16 benefits of developing nuclear energy generation facilities in
17 Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
19 of business, economic development, and tourism, for
20 administrative purposes only the nuclear energy commission.



1 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members,
2 who shall be appointed without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii
3 Revised Statutes:

4 (1) The director of business, economic development, and
5 tourism, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
6 commission;

7 (2) Three members of the general public with expertise in
8 nuclear energy generation or nuclear waste disposal,
9 to be appointed by the governor;

10 (3) The director of health or the director's designee;

11 (4) An expert on nuclear energy from the university of
12 Hawaii, to be appointed by the president of the
13 university of Hawaii;

14 (5) An expert on nuclear waste disposal from the
15 university of Hawaii, to be appointed by the president
16 of the university of Hawaii;

17 (6) An expert on nuclear energy generation from the United
18 States Navy;

19 (7) A representative of the United States Department of
20 Energy; and

21 (8) A representative from the Nature Conservancy.



- 1 (c) The commission shall:
- 2 (1) Study the feasibility of developing nuclear energy
- 3 generation facilities in Hawaii;
- 4 (2) Evaluate the risks and benefits of developing nuclear
- 5 energy generation facilities in Hawaii, including
- 6 environmental risks;
- 7 (3) Evaluate the short-term and long-term economic costs
- 8 and benefits of developing nuclear energy generation
- 9 facilities in Hawaii; and
- 10 (4) Study strategies for safely disposing, storing, and
- 11 reprocessing nuclear waste.

12 (d) The commission shall report its findings and

13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the

14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of

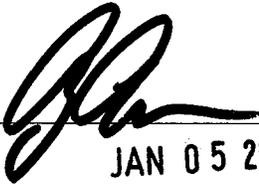
15 the regular session of 2025.

16 SECTION 3. The commission shall cease to exist on June 30,

17 2025.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:  _____
JAN 05 2024

H.B. NO. 1516

Report Title:

Nuclear Energy Commission; Establish; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Study

Description:

Establishes a nuclear energy commission within the department of business, economic development, and tourism to study the feasibility, risks, and benefits of developing nuclear energy generation facilities in Hawaii. Requires report to the legislature.

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