
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is an
2 opportunity to generate renewable energy using lands in the
3 state highways rights-of-way. Other jurisdictions across the
4 country have successfully and safely deployed solar power by
5 installing solar panels in shoulders and medians. Green energy
6 initiatives can contribute to the achievement of the State's
7 clean energy goals while achieving energy security and
8 resilience in rural communities.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish within
10 the department of transportation, a highways clean energy
11 technology pilot program.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
13 of transportation a highways clean energy technology pilot
14 program.

15 (b) The pilot program shall determine clean energy
16 technology projects, in compliance with federal Highways
17 Administration requirements and regulations, that may be



1 installed on any state road or property owned by the department
2 of transportation on the island of Molokai.

3 (c) The department of transportation shall determine the
4 type of clean energy technology to install within, on, or around
5 its highways facilities on the island of Molokai.

6 (d) The department of transportation shall plan, design,
7 construct, and operate the clean energy technologies to be
8 installed on state roads and within, on, or around its highway
9 facility on the island of Molokai.

10 (e) The pilot program shall cease to exist on July 1,
11 2026.

12 (f) As used in this section, "clean energy technology" has
13 the same meaning as defined in section 269-121(b), Hawaii
14 Revised Statutes.

15 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall submit a
16 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
17 proposed legislation, relating to the highway clean energy
18 technology pilot program to the legislature no later than twenty
19 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

20 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
21 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,



1 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
 2 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
 3 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
 4 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
 5 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
 6 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
 7 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
 8 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
 9 ceiling are that:

- 10 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
 11 serve the public interest; and
- 12 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
 13 addressed by this Act.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 17 the implementation of the pilot program including costs for
 18 planning, design, construction, and operations of the clean
 19 energy technologies.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 21 transportation for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



Report Title:

DOT; Highways Clean Energy Technology Pilot Program; Molokai;
Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Highways Clean Energy Technology Pilot Program within the Department of Transportation. Requires a report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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