

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2608**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 16 2024**

RE: S.B. No. 2499

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2499 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) to implement a Slim-Hole Resource Characterization Program that identifies the location and characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration resources across the State under the direction of the Hawaii Groundwater and Geothermal Resources Center at the University of Hawaii;
- (2) Require HSEO to prepare an environmental assessment or, if required, an environmental impact statement for the program;
- (3) Require HSEO to engage with the counties and nearby communities to understand community needs, priorities, and concerns relating to the program before and during the environmental assessment and the program;



- (4) Require a progress report to the Legislature; and
- (5) Make appropriations to the HSEO for the implementation of the slim-hole resource characterization program.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Energy Office, Ulupono Initiative LLC, Sustainable Energy Hawai'i, Climate Protectors Hawaii, and four individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals.

Your Committees find that a better understanding of underground water resources and carbon sequestration potential across the State can have multiple benefits to agriculture, clean energy, and land use. Your Committees also find that resource characterization through slim-hole bores of certain sizes and depths can identify water and carbon sequestration resources across the state. A statewide environmental assessment of a slim-hole exploration program, along with robust and continued community engagement, will help identify the most appropriate locations for this scientific activity.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2499, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2499, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Energy, Economic  
Development, and Tourism,  
Agriculture and Environment,  
and Water and Land,



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MIKE GABBARD, Chair



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LYNN DECOITE, Chair



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LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2499</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EET/AEN/WTL, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02/14/2024</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	<del>X</del>			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	<del>X</del>			
DECOITE, Lynn	<del>X</del>			
RHOADS, Karl	<del>X</del>			
AWA, Brenton				<del>X</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:	
SB 2499	EET/AEN/WTL, WAM	02 / 14 / 24	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____			
The Recommendation is:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay
Excused			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓		
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓		
CHANG, Stanley	✓		
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓		
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓		
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted			
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 			
Distribution:      Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report      Clerk's Office      Drafting Agency      Committee File Copy			

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