
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION
POTENTIAL AND UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES STATEWIDE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a better
2 understanding of underground water resources and carbon
3 sequestration potential across the State can have multiple
4 benefits to agriculture, clean energy, and land use.

5 The legislature also finds that resource characterization
6 through slim-hole bores with a diameter of seven inches or less
7 for over ninety per cent of the depth of the bore can identify
8 water and carbon sequestration resources across the State.

9 The legislature further finds that a statewide
10 environmental assessment of a slim-hole exploration program
11 should be conducted, along with robust and continued community
12 engagement, to identify the most appropriate locations for this
13 scientific activity.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
15 Hawaii state energy office to implement a slim-hole resource
16 characterization program that identifies the location and



1 characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration
2 resources across the State under the direction of the Hawaii
3 groundwater and geothermal resources center at the university of
4 Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii state energy office shall
6 implement a slim-hole resource characterization program that
7 identifies the location and characteristics of underground water
8 and carbon sequestration resources across the State under the
9 direction of the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources
10 center at the university of Hawaii.

11 (b) The Hawaii state energy office shall prepare an
12 environmental assessment or, if required, an environmental
13 impact statement for the proposed program that shall be prepared
14 and accepted in compliance with the rules adopted under
15 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 (c) Before and during the environmental assessment and the
17 implementation of the slim-hole resource characterization
18 program, the Hawaii state energy office, with support from the
19 Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center, shall engage
20 with the counties and nearby communities, including individuals



1 and civic organizations, to understand community needs,
2 priorities, and concerns relating to the program.

3 (d) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a progress
4 report on the slim-hole resource characterization program,
5 including its findings, recommendations, and any proposed
6 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the regular session of 2027. The report
8 shall be made available to the public in readily accessible
9 formats, including commonly used mapping software.

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
11 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
13 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
14 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
15 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
16 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
17 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
18 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
19 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
20 ceiling are that:



1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and

3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the energy
6 security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
7 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
8 implementation of the slim-hole resource characterization
9 program, including for the preparation of an environmental
10 assessment or, if required, an environmental impact statement
11 for the proposed program.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
13 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$135,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for one
17 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to support the
18 activities described by this Act.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
20 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

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



Report Title:

Hawaii State Energy Office; University of Hawaii; Hawaii Groundwater and Geothermal Resource Center; Water Resources; Geothermal Exploration; Slim-hole Resource Characterization Program; Environmental Assessment; Environmental Impact Statement; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office 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. Requires the Office to prepare an environmental assessment or, if required, an environmental impact statement for the program. Requires the Office 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. Requires reports to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes appropriations.
(SD1)

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