
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 carbon sequestration potential and the location
3 and temperature of underground water resources across the State
4 can have multiple benefits to agriculture, clean energy, and
5 land use.

6 The legislature further finds that resource
7 characterization via slim-hole bores, which have a diameter of
8 seven inches or less for over ninety per cent of the depth of
9 the bore, can identify water and carbon sequestration resources
10 across the State.

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



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 business, economic development, and tourism to implement a
3 carbon sequestration and underground water resource
4 characterization program that identifies the location and
5 characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration
6 resources across the State and, in collaboration with the Hawaii
7 groundwater and geothermal resources center at the university of
8 Hawaii, conduct an environmental assessment of the program's
9 actions and implement the program.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§196- Carbon sequestration and underground water
14 resource characterization program. (a) There is established
15 the carbon sequestration and underground water resource
16 characterization program within the department of business,
17 economic development, and tourism to identify the location and
18 characteristics of underground water and carbon sequestration
19 resources across the State using the slim-hole boring
20 exploration method. The department of business, economic
21 development, and tourism shall implement the program, which



1 shall include conducting a statewide environmental assessment of
2 the program's actions pursuant to chapter 343, in collaboration
3 with the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at
4 the university of Hawaii or similar institution.

5 (b) Before and during the statewide environmental
6 assessment for the carbon sequestration and underground water
7 resource characterization program activities, the department of
8 business, economic development, and tourism and collaborators
9 shall meet with the counties and nearby communities, including
10 individuals and civic organizations, to explain the purpose of
11 the program and identify community needs, priorities, concerns,
12 and appropriate locations to conduct the slim-hole boring for
13 the program."

14 SECTION 3. The department of business, economic
15 development, and tourism shall submit a progress report on the
16 carbon sequestration and underground water resource
17 characterization program, including its findings,
18 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session of 2028. The report shall be made available



1 to the public in readily accessible formats, including commonly
2 used mapping software.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the energy
4 security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum
6 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027
7 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
10 of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of full-time
16 equivalent (FTE) permanent positions to support the
17 activities described by this Act.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
20 of this Act.

21 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; Geothermal Exploration;
Report; Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a Carbon Sequestration and Underground Water
Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and
requires a related statewide environmental assessment. Requires
a report to the Legislature. Establishes positions.
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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