
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, underground water, and geothermal
4 exploration resource characterization program that identifies
5 the location and characteristics of underground water and carbon
6 sequestration resources across the State and, in collaboration
7 with the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at
8 the university of Hawaii, conduct an environmental assessment of
9 the program's 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, underground water, and
14 geothermal exploration resource characterization program. (a)
15 There is established the carbon sequestration, underground
16 water, and geothermal exploration resource characterization
17 program within the department of business, economic development,
18 and tourism to identify the location and characteristics of
19 underground water and carbon sequestration resources across the
20 State using the slim-hole boring exploration method. The
21 department of business, economic development, and tourism shall



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

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

15 SECTION 3. The department of business, economic
16 development, and tourism shall submit a progress report on the
17 carbon sequestration, underground water, and geothermal
18 exploration resource characterization program, including its
19 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 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, Underground Water, and Geothermal Exploration 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. (SD2)

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