
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL ENERGY EXPLORATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that geothermal resources
2 can provide stable power and community benefits and are a viable
3 alternative to biofuels. In 2024, the legislature appropriated
4 \$6,000,000 for an integrated geothermal development plan to be
5 administered by the Hawaii technology development corporation.
6 The governor subsequently reduced the appropriation to
7 \$3,000,000. Through a partnership between the Hawaii technology
8 development corporation and the university of Hawaii, work has
9 already begun on an integrated geothermal development roadmap
10 with the goal of developing the first utility-scale 50-100-
11 megawatt power station on Hawaii island.

12 Hawaii island holds the most promise for geothermal energy
13 development. All geothermal testing done in the State confirms
14 that the largest and most reliable source of geothermal energy
15 is located on Hawaii island. Hawaii island is also the only
16 island that has enough agricultural and pastoral land to meet



1 the State's need for food self-sufficiency and security in the
2 future.

3 The legislature recognizes that an additional appropriation
4 is needed to allow the Hawaii technology development corporation
5 to continue the geothermal energy exploration currently
6 underway. Further funding would ensure that the Hawaii
7 technology development corporation can oversee a development
8 plan, administer an extensive community outreach program, and
9 build on previous investigations by the department of Hawaiian
10 home lands and other entities.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
12 funds to the department of business, economic development, and
13 tourism for the exploration and identification of geothermal
14 resources on Hawaii island.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2026-2027 for the exploration and identification of geothermal
20 resources on Hawaii island.



H.B. NO. 1403

1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
3 of this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

5

INTRODUCED BY: Miss E. Lown BR

JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1403

Report Title:

DBEDT; Geothermal Energy; Hawaii Island; Exploration;
Identification; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic
Development, and Tourism for the exploration and identification
of geothermal resources on Hawaii island.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

