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

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

11 The legislature further 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.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii state
17 energy office to implement a slim-hole resource characterization



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

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

8 "§196- Carbon sequestration and underground water
9 resource characterization program. (a) There is established
10 the carbon sequestration and underground water resource
11 characterization program within the Hawaii state energy office
12 to identify the location and characteristics of underground
13 water and carbon sequestration resources across the State using
14 the slim-hole boring exploration method. The Hawaii state
15 energy office shall implement the program, which shall include
16 conducting a statewide environmental assessment of the program's
17 actions pursuant to chapter 343, in collaboration with the
18 Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at the
19 university of Hawaii or similar institution.

20 (b) In advance of and during the statewide environmental
21 assessment for the carbon sequestration and underground water



1 resource characterization program activities, the Hawaii state
2 energy office and its collaborators shall meet with the counties
3 and nearby communities, including individuals and civic
4 organizations, to explain the purpose of the program and
5 identify community needs, priorities, concerns, and appropriate
6 locations to conduct the slim-hole boring for the
7 characterization program.

8 (c) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a progress
9 report on the carbon sequestration and underground water
10 resource characterization program, including its findings,
11 recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the legislature
12 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
13 session of 2028. The report shall be made available to the
14 public in readily accessible formats, including commonly used
15 mapping software."

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the energy
17 security special fund established under section 201-12.8, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes, the sum of \$16,500,000 or so much thereof as
19 may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026, and the same sum or
20 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
21 carry out the purposes of this Act.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
2 energy office.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$135,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026, and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2026-2027, to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
8 permanent position to support the activities described by this
9 Act.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
11 energy office.

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on May 13, 2040.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Energy Office; Carbon Sequestration; Water Resources; Geothermal Exploration; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a statewide underground water and carbon sequestration resource characterization program via slim hole bores and a related statewide environmental assessment. Effective 5/13/2040. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

