
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Kohala mountains
2 on Hawaii island represent an ideal location for a water pump
3 storage hydroelectric facility due to the unique geography of
4 the region. The elevation of the mountains facilitates the
5 downhill flow of water through a series of reservoirs to
6 generate electricity. Wind turbines are a complementary source
7 of renewable energy that would increase the generation of
8 electricity. In the evenings when the demand for electricity is
9 lower, the energy generated by the wind turbines would be used
10 to pump the water stored in reservoirs at lower elevations to
11 reservoirs at higher elevations, preparing it for the next day's
12 energy needs.

13 The legislature further finds that the State needs a
14 comprehensive water plan for both potable and irrigation water,
15 a comprehensive agricultural plan that includes local production
16 and processing, and a comprehensive renewable energy plan that
17 complements agriculture. The water pump storage hydroelectric



1 facility is a critical component of these comprehensive plans as
2 it provides a source of potable water, water for irrigation, and
3 reduces energy costs. The legislature also finds that the
4 premium tract of land located in the Kohala mountains for the
5 construction of this facility is owned by the department of
6 Hawaiian home lands. Construction of the water pump storage
7 hydroelectric facility would increase the availability of
8 potable water, attracting more native Hawaiians to the area.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
10 issuance of general obligation bonds to the department of
11 Hawaiian home lands to finance the planning, designing, and
12 construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in
13 the Kohala mountains on Hawaii island.

14 SECTION 2. Prior to the issuance of general obligation
15 bonds, the department of Hawaiian home lands shall conduct a
16 feasibility study evaluating projected costs, revenue potential,
17 and environmental impacts. The department of Hawaiian home
18 lands may contract with a third party to conduct the technical
19 study. The department of Hawaiian home lands shall submit a
20 report of its findings, including any proposed legislation, to



1 the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2028.

3 SECTION 3. The department of Hawaiian home lands shall
4 conduct an environmental impact statement in accordance with
5 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including consultation
6 with the commission on water resource management to ensure
7 suitable water usage. The department of Hawaiian home lands
8 shall submit an annual progress report to the legislature
9 detailing expenditures, milestones, and anticipated project
10 timelines.

11 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue
12 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
14 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2025-2026
15 for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, and
16 construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in
17 the Kohala mountains on Hawaii island.

18 SECTION 5. The sum appropriated in section 4 of this Act
19 shall be expended by the department of Hawaiian home lands for
20 the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. The appropriation made for the capital
2 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
3 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
4 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
5 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DHHL; Kohala; Water Pump Storage Hydroelectric; Renewable Energy; GO Bonds; Feasibility Study; Environmental Impact Statement; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to finance the planning, designing, and construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric facility in the Kohala Mountains on Hawaii Island. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to conduct a feasibility study and report the results to the Legislature. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement and submit an annual progress report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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