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# 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 carbon sequestration potential and 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 Hawaii state  
2 energy office to implement a carbon sequestration and  
3 underground water resource characterization program that  
4 identifies the location and characteristics of underground water  
5 and carbon sequestration resources across the State and, in  
6 collaboration with the Hawaii groundwater and geothermal  
7 resources center at the university of Hawaii and director of  
8 business, economic development, and tourism, conduct an  
9 environmental assessment of the program's actions and implement  
10 the program.

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

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



conducting a statewide environmental assessment of the program's  
actions pursuant to chapter 343, in collaboration with the  
Hawaii groundwater and geothermal resources center at the  
university of Hawaii or similar institution and director of  
business, economic development, and tourism.

(b) Before and during the statewide environmental  
assessment for the carbon sequestration and underground water  
resource characterization program activities, the Hawaii state  
energy office and collaborators shall meet with the counties and  
nearby communities, including individuals and civic  
organizations, in order to explain the purpose of the program  
and identify community needs, priorities, concerns, and  
appropriate locations to conduct the slim-hole boring for the  
program."

SECTION 3. The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a  
progress report on the carbon sequestration and underground  
water resource characterization program, including its findings,  
recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
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 Hawaii state  
9 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

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

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
17 energy office.

18 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes a Carbon Sequestration and Underground Water  
Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and  
requires a related statewide environmental assessment.  
Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

