
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WIND ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that offshore wind power
2 is in the early stages of development in the United States, with
3 numerous state and federal offshore wind energy production
4 targets having been set for the coming years.

5 The legislature also finds the offshore wind development is
6 not a net-gain for every community. While it is a source of
7 inexhaustible, cost-effective, and clean power, it can also lead
8 to negative environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts.

9 Areas off the coast of Oahu have been subject to
10 unsolicited wind energy lease requests following the
11 establishment of the State's 2045 one hundred per cent renewable
12 energy goal. In response, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
13 has assessed offshore wind deployment scenarios, while
14 communities targeted by lease requests and studies have
15 typically been vocal in their rejection of proposals.

16 As offshore wind energy grows in adoption and Hawaii
17 considers adding developments to its waters, it is vital to



1 balance the benefits of this energy source with infrastructure
2 capacities and community sentiment.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
4 offshore wind energy working group to evaluate suitability and
5 the best means to approach possible offshore wind development
6 projects.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an offshore wind
8 energy working group to consider and compile existing data,
9 involve community stakeholders in the conversations regarding
10 offshore wind energy development, consider its suitability for
11 Hawaii, make recommendations regarding possible changes to the
12 State's 2045 renewable energy portfolio, and establish best
13 practices as a clear path forward for the State to follow in
14 setting energy goals and initiating offshore wind energy
15 projects.

16 (b) The working group shall develop an offshore wind
17 roadmap that defines standards to be considered in the
18 development process for offshore wind energy. The standards
19 must support:

- 20 (1) Effective stakeholder engagement;
21 (2) Local and regional coastal communities;



1 (3) The creation of economic opportunities and sustainment
2 of existing local and regional economies;

3 (4) The creation of an offshore wind energy workforce that
4 is local, trained, housed and equitable;

5 (5) Protection of cultural resources, with special
6 consideration to the rights, customs, and traditional
7 practices of native Hawaiians;

8 (6) Protection of the environment; and

9 (7) The achievement of state energy policy objectives.

10 (c) In making their recommendations and roadmap, the
11 working group shall consult with industry experts and consider
12 existing reports such as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's
13 *Hawaii Floating Offshore Wind Regional Ports Assessment* and the
14 National Renewable Energy Laboratory's report on *The Cost and*
15 *Feasibility of Floating Offshore Wind Energy in the Oahu Region.*

16 (d) The working group shall consist of the following
17 individuals:

18 (1) The chair of the house committee on energy and
19 environmental protection;

20 (2) The chair of the senate committee on energy and
21 intergovernmental affairs;



1 (3) The chair of the public utilities commission, or the
2 Chair's designee;

3 (4) The chief energy officer of the Hawaii state energy
4 office, or the chief energy officer's designee;

5 (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
6 resources, or the chairperson's designee;

7 (6) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
8 development, or the director's designee; and

9 (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
10 affairs, or the chief executive officer's designee.

11 (e) The working group shall invite the following
12 representatives to join the working group:

13 (1) The director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
14 or the Director's designee.

15 (2) A representative of the office of climate change,
16 sustainability and resilience of the city and county
17 of Honolulu, to be selected by the chief resilience
18 officer and executive director of the office of
19 climate change, sustainability and resilience of the
20 city and county of Honolulu;



- 1 (3) A representative with familiarity, experience, or
2 expertise in native Hawaiian rights, customs, and
3 traditional practices to be appointed by the governor;
4 (4) A representative from Hawaiian Electric Company; and
5 (5) A representative from each community affected by
6 proposed offshore wind lease development to be
7 appointed by the governor.

8 The working group may invite other persons to participate
9 on the working group.

10 (f) The working group shall select a chairperson from
11 among its members.

12 (g) The members of the working group shall not be subject
13 to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely based on their
14 participation on the working group.

15 (h) Members of the working group shall serve without
16 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,
17 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
18 their duties.

19 (i) The working group shall prepare and submit a report of
20 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed

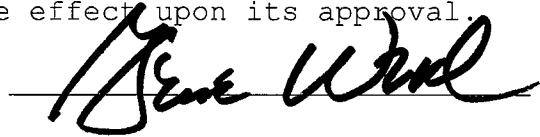


H.B. NO. 514

1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Ward", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 514

Report Title:

Working Group; Offshore Wind Energy; Recommendations; Roadmap

Description:

Creates an offshore wind energy working group to generate a roadmap to define standards to consider in the developmental process for offshore wind energy. Requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2027 regular session.

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

