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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's  
2       environmental review process is designed to assess new projects  
3       with potential environmental impacts. However, recent court  
4       decisions have broadened the definition of "action", which  
5       includes long-permitted commercial activities that the State did  
6       not originally intend to be subject to environmental review. As  
7       a result, long-standing commercial operations may be forced to  
8       cease operation despite their decades-long compliance with  
9       regulatory requirements.

10       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to temporarily  
11       allow:

12       (1) An activity or operation that is permitted or  
13       authorized under the ocean recreation and coastal area  
14       programs chapter, and renewed within twelve months  
15       preceding the initiation of proceedings to determine  
16       whether the activity or operation is subject to  
17       environmental review, to continue operation for one



1           year while the appropriate agency makes the  
2           determination and conducts any necessary environmental  
3           review; and

4           (2) A person with oversight of the activity or operation  
5           to renew the appropriate permits while under the  
6           environmental review process

7           SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,  
8           when an activity or operation, permitted or authorized under  
9           chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and renewed within twelve  
10          months preceding the initiation of proceedings under this  
11          section, is challenged as being subject to the requirements of  
12          chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the activity or operation  
13          may continue for up to one year pending:

14          (1) A determination by the appropriate agency as to  
15          whether the activity or operation is subject to or  
16          exempt from the requirements of chapter 343, Hawaii  
17          Revised Statutes; and

18          (2) The preparation and submission of an environmental  
19          assessment or environmental impact statement, if  
20          required;



1 provided that the activity or operation shall comply with all  
2 applicable regulatory requirements and shall not include  
3 construction, grading, dredging, or other structural  
4 modifications to land, waterways, or marine environments;  
5 provided further that the court may extend the continuation  
6 period at its discretion.

7 (b) If an agency determines that an activity or operation,  
8 permitted or authorized under chapter 200, Hawaii Revised  
9 Statutes, and renewed within twelve months preceding the  
10 initiation of proceedings under this section, is subject to  
11 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a person with oversight of  
12 the activity or operation may renew the permit while undergoing  
13 environmental review; provided that the activity or operation  
14 continues to comply with regulatory requirements.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000, and  
16 shall be repealed on June 30, 2027.



**Report Title:**

Environmental Assessment; Commercial Activities; Temporary  
Exemption; Challenge; Permits

**Description:**

Allows an activity or operation that is permitted or authorized under the ocean recreation and coastal areas program chapter and renewed within twelve months preceding the initiation of proceedings to determine whether the activity or operation is subject to environmental review, to continue operation for one year while the appropriate agency makes the determination and conducts any necessary environmental review. Allows a person with oversight of the activity or operation to renew the appropriate permits while under the environmental review process. Sunsets 6/30/2027. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

