STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1216 -26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3081
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 3081, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE THE POTENTIAL OF UNDERGROUND ENERGY RESOURCES STATEWIDE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

(1) Establish and appropriate funds for an Underground Energy Resource Characterization Program to identify the location and characteristics of accessible geothermal heat and carbon sequestration resources using the slim-hole boring method; and

(2) Require a related environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Hawaii State Energy Office; Sustainable Energy Hawai'i; Ulupono Initiative; Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from three individuals. Your Committee received

comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that a better understanding of geothermal and carbon sequestration resources can provide substantial benefits to agriculture, clean energy, and land use. Your Committee further finds that resource characterization via slim-hole bores can help identify geological features associated with these resources. This measure supports the State's ongoing efforts to identify cleaner, alternative energy sources by establishing a program and appropriating funds for the identification of geothermal and carbon sequestration resources via slim hole characterization wells.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3081, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3081, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,

NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1216-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 3081 SD1	EEP, WAL, FIN	3/17/26

☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: ☐ Pass, unamended (as is) ☑ Pass, with amendments (HD) ☐ Hold
☐ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.	✓			
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean				✓
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
TOTAL (7)	6			1

The recommendation is: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: Amy Perruso

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