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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION  
POTENTIAL AND GEOTHERMAL 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 geothermal and underground water resources  
4 across the State can have multiple benefits to agriculture,  
5 clean energy, and 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 geothermal, carbon sequestration, and  
10 water resources 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 slim-hole resource characterization  
3 program that identifies the location and characteristics of  
4 geothermal, carbon sequestration, and underground water  
5 resources across the State in collaboration with the Hawaii  
6 groundwater and geothermal resources center at the university of  
7 Hawaii.

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

11           "§196-        Geothermal, carbon sequestration, and  
12 underground water resource characterization program. (a) There  
13 is established the geothermal, carbon sequestration, and  
14 underground water resource characterization program within the  
15 Hawaii state energy office to identify the location and  
16 characteristics of geothermal, carbon sequestration, and  
17 underground water resources across the State using the slim-hole  
18 boring exploration method. The Hawaii state energy office shall  
19 implement the program in collaboration with the Hawaii  
20 groundwater and geothermal resources center at the university of  
21 Hawaii or similar institution.



1        (b) Upon finding a geothermal, carbon sequestration, or  
2 underground water resource, the Hawaii state energy office shall  
3 seek funds to conduct an environmental assessment or  
4 environmental impact statement for the program's actions  
5 pursuant to chapter 343. The assessment or impact statement  
6 shall be conducted in collaboration with the appropriate state  
7 agencies, including the department of land and natural resources  
8 and department of health, and shall include input from Native  
9 Hawaiian cultural practitioners.

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

19       (d) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit an annual  
20 report on the status of geothermal resource identification and  
21 development potential in the State, including information about



1 developments in geothermal energy technology, activities in  
2 other states or in the counties, and geothermal energy's role in  
3 achieving energy self-sufficiency in the State. The report  
4 shall be made available to the public in readily accessible  
5 formats, including commonly used mapping software."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the energy  
7 security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof  
8 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to carry out the  
9 purposes of this Act.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
11 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
15 carry out the purposes of this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
17 energy office for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. 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 Geothermal, Carbon Sequestration, and Underground Water Resource Characterization Program via slim hole bores and a related statewide environmental assessment. Appropriates funds for the program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

