

ACT 124

S.B. NO. 1678-86

A Bill for an Act Relating to Notification of Owners of Properties Included Within and Adjoining Areas Being Designated Geothermal Resource Subzones.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 205-5.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) After the board has completed a county-by-county assessment of all areas with geothermal potential or after any subsequent update or review, the board shall compare all areas showing geothermal potential within each county, and shall propose areas for potential designation as geothermal resource subzones based upon a preliminary finding that the areas are those sites which best demonstrate an acceptable balance between the factors set forth in subsection (b). Once such a proposal is made, the board shall conduct public

hearings pursuant to this subsection, notwithstanding any contrary provision related to public hearing procedures.

- (1) Hearings shall be held at locations which are in close proximity to those areas proposed for designation. A public notice of hearing, including a description of the proposed areas, an invitation for public comment, and a statement of the date, time, and place where persons may be heard shall be published and mailed no less than twenty days before the hearing. The notice shall be published on three separate days in a newspaper of general circulation statewide and in the county in which the hearing is to be held. Copies of the notice shall be mailed to the department of planning and economic development, [and] to the planning commission and planning department of the county in which the proposed areas are located[.], and to all owners of record of real estate within, and within one thousand feet of, the area being proposed for designation as a geothermal resource subzone. The notification shall be mailed to the owners and addresses as shown on the current real property tax rolls at the county real property tax office. Upon such action, the requirement for notification of owners of land is completed. For the purposes of this subsection, notice to one co-owner shall be sufficient notice to all co-owners.
- (2) The hearing shall be held before the board, and the authority to conduct hearings shall not be delegated to any agent or representative of the board. All persons and agencies shall be afforded the opportunity to submit data, views, and arguments either orally or in writing. The department of planning and economic development and the county planning department shall be permitted to appear at every hearing and make recommendations concerning each proposal by the board.
- (3) At the close of the hearing, the board may designate areas as geothermal resource subzones or announce the date on which it will render its decision. The board may designate areas as geothermal resource subzones only upon finding that the areas are those sites which best demonstrate an acceptable balance between the factors set forth in subsection (b). Upon request, the board shall issue a concise statement of its findings and the principal reasons for its decision to designate a particular area.”

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved May 8, 1986.)