

ACT 218

S.B. NO. 3143

A Bill for an Act Relating to Utility Transmission Lines.

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

SECTION 1. Section 269-27.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, whenever a public utility applies to the public utilities commission for approval to place, construct, erect, or otherwise build a new forty-six kilovolt or greater high-voltage electric transmission system, either above or below the surface of the ground, the public utilities commission shall determine whether the electric transmission system shall be placed, constructed, erected, or built above or below the surface of the ground; provided that in its determination, the public utilities commission shall consider [the following factors]:

- (1) Whether [there is] a benefit exists that outweighs the costs [to place] of placing the electric transmission system underground;
- (2) Whether there is a governmental public policy requiring the electric transmission system to be placed, constructed, erected, or built underground, and the governmental agency establishing the policy commits funds for the additional costs of undergrounding;
- (3) Whether any governmental agency or other parties are willing to pay for the additional costs of undergrounding; [and]

- (4) The recommendation of the division of consumer advocacy of the department of commerce and consumer affairs, which shall be based on an evaluation of the factors set forth under this subsection; and
[(4)] (5) Any other relevant factors.”

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed.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 July 17, 1998.)