

JAN 22 2007

S.B. NO. 1375

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. To improve the state's energy security, and to
2 reduce the State's dependence on foreign oil and benefit the
3 environment, the legislature finds that the public utilities
4 commission should be allowed to consider the need for renewable
5 energy in exercising its authority to regulate public utility
6 companies. The purpose of this Act is to clarify that the public
7 utilities commission has the authority to consider the need for
8 increased renewable energy use in exercising its jurisdiction
9 under chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
11 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
12 read as follows:

13 "§269- Consideration of renewable energy. The public
14 utilities commission may consider the need for increased
15 renewable energy use in exercising its authority and duties under
16 this chapter."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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BY REQUEST

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Budget and Finance (PUC)

TITLE A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

PURPOSE: To provide the Public Utilities Commission with express authority to consider the need for increased renewable energy use in exercising its authority under chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

MEANS: Add a new section to chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The amendment to chapter 269 will clarify and strengthen the commission's authority to consider renewable energy. Increased use of renewable energy can improve the State's energy security by reducing the State's dependence and use of foreign oil, and can reduce the cost of electricity, provide additional jobs, and help protect Hawaii's environment by reducing air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the risk of oil spills. Thus, the Public Utilities Commission should be authorized to consider the need for increased renewable energy use in exercising its authority to regulate public utility companies.

Impact on the public: By expressly allowing the Public Utilities Commission to consider renewable energy in exercising its authority under chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the State may reduce its dependence on imported fuels, and have a positive impact on Hawaii's environment.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Passage of this bill will clarify and strengthen the Public Utilities Commission's authority to consider renewable energy use in exercising its authority under chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: None.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.