
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The State's ambitious clean energy goals, along
2 with advances in energy technology, have created incentives for
3 the adoption of new energy systems technologies and equipment,
4 including distributed electrical systems such as solar panels
5 and energy storage.

6 Installation of these modern energy systems has been an
7 economic driver, reduced the State's dependence on imported oil,
8 and helped to protect the environment, but the increased
9 construction has placed additional burdens on some county
10 employees. Employees responsible for permitting, inspecting,
11 licensing, and approving projects, including employees at county
12 public works departments, employees at planning and permitting
13 departments, and fire departments, must now remain constantly
14 informed of new technology in the energy sector. However, the
15 legislature finds that many of these employees are not provided
16 with the proper training and must either research the standards
17 themselves or pay for their own training. In addition, the lack



1 of training can lead to unnecessary delays in the approval or
2 implementation of a project.

3 The purpose of this Act is to create a program to provide
4 training to county employees responsible for permitting,
5 inspecting, licensing, and approving energy systems and related
6 technology.

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

10 "§196- Energy systems and technology training. (a)
11 Energy systems and technology training courses shall be
12 established as needed to educate relevant officers and employees
13 of the counties on the various standards and requirements for
14 renewable energy systems and related distributed electricity
15 technologies, including energy storage. The courses, including
16 any materials necessary to implement the courses, shall be
17 developed, designed, prepared, and conducted by the University
18 of Hawaii community colleges, or by a public or private entity
19 contracted by the University of Hawaii community colleges.

20 (b) The energy systems and technology training courses may
21 include information on:



- 1 (1) New innovations in energy systems and technology, such
2 as recent advancements in distributed electricity
3 technologies and related interaction of these systems
4 and technologies with the electrical grid;
- 5 (2) The implementation of new and existing energy systems
6 and technology in compliance with international,
7 national, state, and county standards, including
8 building and fire codes; and
- 9 (3) Any other relevant topic pertaining to the various
10 standards and requirements for renewable energy
11 systems and related technology.
- 12 (c) The University of Hawaii community colleges shall:
- 13 (1) Administer the energy systems and technology training
14 courses;
- 15 (2) Provide notifications or advertisements of the courses
16 to relevant county employees, including employees at
17 county public works departments, employees at planning
18 and permitting departments, fire departments, and
19 others involved in the permitting, inspecting,
20 licensing, and approving of construction projects; and



1 (3) Provide the courses at no cost to the participants or
2 for a fee, which may be refunded; provided that funds
3 are available for that purpose.

4 (d) The University of Hawaii community colleges may
5 designate its staff to conduct the energy systems and technology
6 training courses or contract with a public or private entity to
7 conduct the courses.

8 (e) The University of Hawaii community colleges shall
9 establish a committee comprised of stakeholders, including local
10 and national industry representatives from distributed energy
11 systems providers, including solar and energy storage systems,
12 and county representatives from each county who will work
13 closely with the staff of the University of Hawaii community
14 colleges and subject matter experts to:

15 (1) Provide input and guidance on identifying the
16 necessary training areas in which to provide training
17 to county employees;

18 (2) Provide input and guidance on identifying the related
19 and required training equipment to be incorporated
20 into the training program; and



1 (3) Assist with outreach and buy-in from county employees
2 and constituents to enhance participation in the
3 training."

4 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii community colleges
5 shall submit a report to the legislature describing the progress
6 made in establishing energy systems and technology training
7 courses for county employees as provided in this Act no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
9 of 2019.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2018-2019 for energy systems and technology training as provided
15 for in this Act; provided that funds may be used to refund
16 participant fees for training courses pursuant to section
17 196- (c)3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in section 2 of this Act.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
19 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Energy Systems and Technology; Training; County Employees;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii community colleges to establish energy systems and technology training courses for county employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving construction projects that contain renewable energy systems and related technology. Requires the establishment of a committee of industry stakeholders to collaborate with the University of Hawaii community colleges in developing appropriate training courses. Requires the University of Hawaii community colleges to submit a report to the legislature detailing its progress prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

