
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of biofuels
2 can be part of a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by
3 displacing fossil fuels. However, unsustainably sourced
4 biofuels can worsen greenhouse gas emissions and harm the
5 environment. Some biofuels are produced from crops that
6 increase greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to climate
7 change. Converting rainforests or grasslands to produce food
8 crop-based biofuels can result in increased greenhouse gas
9 emissions. In contrast, biofuels made from waste biomass can
10 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

11 The legislature also finds that the production of biofuels
12 can displace food crops and lead to land clearing. This hurts
13 the global food supply and can create moral hazards. Under
14 current State law, unsustainable or morally hazardous biofuel
15 could be used in the State under the banner of "renewable
16 energy." For example, if biofuels were grown in the Amazon
17 rainforest in a way that increased greenhouse gases and



1 displaced the indigenous population, the biofuels would still be
2 considered a "renewable fuel" in the State. This is an absurd
3 result that is contrary to both the State's renewable energy
4 goals and the State's moral compass. Accordingly, the purpose
5 of this Act is to clarify that biofuels used in the State must
6 come from renewable sources.

7 SECTION 2. Section 269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending the definition of "renewable energy" to read
9 as follows:

10 "Renewable energy" means energy generated or produced
11 using the following sources:

- 12 (1) Wind;
- 13 (2) The sun;
- 14 (3) Falling water;
- 15 (4) Biogas, including landfill and sewage-based digester
16 gas;
- 17 (5) Geothermal;
- 18 (6) Ocean water, currents, and waves, including ocean
19 thermal energy conversion;



- 1 (7) Biomass, including biomass crops, agricultural and
- 2 animal residues and wastes, and municipal solid waste
- 3 and other solid waste;
- 4 (8) Biofuels[+] produced from renewable energy sources;
- 5 and
- 6 (9) Hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources."

7 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Gynthia Thelen*
JAN 22 2018



H.B. NO. 2220

Report Title:

Renewable Energy; Biofuels

Description:

Changes the definition of renewable energy to require that biofuels be produced from renewable energy sources.

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