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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GASES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Earth's climate has  
2       changed drastically over the past century, including global  
3       rises in temperature, shrinkages in glaciers, snow cover, and  
4       ice sheets, increases in ocean heat and acidity, and increases  
5       in extreme weather events such as floods and hurricanes. The  
6       legislature further finds that increased temperatures threaten  
7       the health of Hawaii's citizens, as heat-related deaths have  
8       risen nationally, and that changes in ocean heat and acidity  
9       harm Hawaii's fragile ocean ecosystems, including its coral  
10      reefs, which are natural treasures and major tourist  
11      attractions.

12       The legislature also finds that the overwhelming majority  
13      of scientists agree that humans cause climate change, including  
14      through production of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide,  
15      methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. However, the  
16      United States has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement - a  
17      coordinated multi-nation effort to reduce greenhouse gas



1 emissions on a global scale. Therefore, it falls to states such  
2 as Hawaii to lead by example.

3       The legislature also finds that individuals can reduce  
4 their greenhouse gas emissions by being more conscious of their  
5 own actions, which may include disconnecting from an electric  
6 grid that draws seventy-five per cent of its power from fossil  
7 fuels, and instead installing on-site renewable energy systems,  
8 energy efficiency systems, and energy storage systems. However,  
9 other parties believe that it is in the public interest for  
10 utility customers to stay connected to the electric grid;  
11 otherwise, the remaining customers will bear a larger share of  
12 fixed embedded costs. The legislature believes that individuals  
13 who choose to remain connected to an electric grid that uses  
14 fossil fuels should not be considered as serving the public  
15 interest more than individuals who choose to disconnect from the  
16 electric grid and thereby reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

17       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to encourage people  
18 to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through the  
19 installation of on-site renewable energy systems, energy  
20 efficiency systems, and energy storage systems and thereby not



1 promote a worldview where fossil fuel users are considered to be  
2 more in the public interest than non-fossil fuel users.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 342B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§342B- Personal responsibility, greenhouse gases. The  
7 State shall encourage people to reduce their greenhouse gas  
8 emissions through the installation of on-site renewable energy  
9 systems, energy efficiency systems, and energy storage systems."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**Report Title:**

Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Personal Responsibility;  
Energy

**Description:**

Requires the State to encourage people to reduce their  
greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of on-site  
renewable energy systems, energy efficiency systems, and energy  
storage systems. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

