

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the human-induced  
2 global climate crisis requires thoughtful but bold responses on  
3 many fronts to make Hawaii communities resilient to the impacts  
4 of climate change that threaten the very survivability of these  
5 fragile islands. Lest Hawaii lose its leadership position in  
6 meeting the future of labor, justice and equity, the legislature  
7 embraces aloha aina as a green new deal to decarbonize Hawaii's  
8 systems of food, energy, and transportation, and to sequester  
9 carbon through systems of agriculture, waste management, and  
10 ecosystem restoration. This solid foundation finds synergies  
11 with expanded access to health, housing and education,  
12 multiplying good jobs and ensuring justice and equity for  
13 Hawaii's citizens. This measure represents a forward step in  
14 mitigating and adapting Hawaii to inevitable climate change.

15           The legislature further finds that our climate crisis is an  
16 existential threat and that greenhouse gas emissions from the  
17 burning of fossil fuels is the key contributor. It poses a



1 serious threat to our economy, public health, and environment.  
2 The State has committed to the elimination of fossil fuels from  
3 our energy sector and has committed to abiding by the Paris  
4 Climate Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to less than  
5 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels.

6 Trees serve as a natural way of removing carbon from the  
7 atmosphere. No other approach is as effective for carbon  
8 sequestration. An environmental assessment should be required  
9 for the large-scale clear-cutting of trees and other perennial  
10 plants to produce electricity.

11 SECTION 2. Section 343-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
14 inserted and to read:

15 "Biomass" means organic material which is not a fossil  
16 fuel.

17 "Fossil fuel" means long-dead organic material that no  
18 longer can be dated because it lacks isotopic markers."

19 2. By amending the definition of "power-generating  
20 facility" to read:

21 "Power-generating facility" means:



1 (1) A new, fossil-fueled, electricity-generating facility,  
2 where the electrical output rating of the new  
3 equipment exceeds 5.0 megawatts; [~~or~~]

4 (2) An expansion in generating capacity of an existing,  
5 fossil-fueled, electricity-generating facility, where  
6 the incremental electrical output rating of the new  
7 equipment exceeds 5.0 megawatts[-]; or

8 (3) A biomass generator exceeds 5.0 megawatts that is  
9 powered by perennial plants."

10 3. By deleting the definition of "renewable energy  
11 facility".



12 [~~"Renewable energy facility". DELETED.~~]

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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# S.B. NO. 2577

**Report Title:**

Biomass; Fossil Fuel

**Description:**

Adds definitions of "biomass" and "fossil fuels", and amends the definition of "power generating facility".

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

