
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 installation of
2 on-site, distributed energy resources, such as rooftop solar and
3 battery storage, is not only one of the most cost-effective ways
4 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants
5 associated with electricity generation and consumption, but also
6 provides affordable and resilient power for Hawaii's energy
7 system users. Energy used to power buildings accounts for more
8 than fifty per cent of the electricity consumed in the State,
9 yet the State has not undertaken efforts to maximize on-site
10 renewable generation at many of its own facilities, forgoing
11 millions of dollars in potential savings.

12 With one of the State's primary areas of focus being
13 economic recovery and resilience in the wake of the August 2023
14 Maui wildfires and the lingering impacts of the coronavirus
15 disease 2019 pandemic, the legislature recognizes the importance
16 of elevating Hawaii's growing clean energy industry, which can
17 diversify the economy, create new jobs, contribute to workforce



1 development, and help the State meet critical energy goals. The
2 legislature also finds that it is imperative for all state
3 agencies to control their energy usage and lower their utility
4 bills in the interest of being responsible with taxpayer
5 dollars.

6 Further, the State has long recognized its responsibility
7 to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made emergencies,
8 which can result in extreme peril to life, property, and the
9 resources of the State, and generally to protect the health and
10 safety and preserve the lives and property of the people of the
11 State. In 2021, the legislature made history by becoming the
12 first state in the nation to declare a climate emergency.
13 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 (2021),
14 acknowledges that an existential climate emergency threatens
15 humanity and the natural world, declares a climate emergency,
16 and requests statewide collaboration toward an immediate just
17 transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe
18 climate; and resolves that entities statewide are requested to
19 pursue these climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and
20 mobilize at the necessary scale and speed.



1 The legislature further finds that the growing climate
2 crisis threatens health and well-being through the impacts of
3 extreme weather events. Most recently, the horrific losses
4 caused by the August 2023 Maui wildfires clearly demonstrate the
5 need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition risk and build
6 grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by distributed
7 rooftop solar and energy storage. Stronger storms as a result
8 of global warming are more likely to cause power outages and
9 down power lines, and in addition to the risk of sparking
10 wildfires, can be costly in terms of lives lost, economic
11 impact, and public health. In addition, extreme weather events
12 can result in severe damage to port infrastructure at Hawaii's
13 harbors, resulting in disruption and ceasing of port activity,
14 and cutting off the ability of cargo shipments, including
15 emergency supplies, to be received. The legislature finds that
16 building Hawaii's resilience to the effects of global warming is
17 in the best interests of the people of Hawaii.

18 To ensure that preparations within the State will be
19 adequate to deal with such emergencies, particularly in
20 situations where there has been disruption to the electric grid
21 and port activity, the legislature finds that state agencies,



1 and in particular, first responders, should have the ability to
2 have full-functioning capabilities toward recovery efforts.
3 Maintaining electricity at facilities, especially of first
4 responders, is therefore paramount in these recovery efforts.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

6 (1) Require state agencies to:

7 (A) Assess the potential and feasibility of
8 installing distributed energy resource systems at
9 each state facility and submit a report to the
10 legislature detailing their findings;

11 (B) Implement and install the distributed energy
12 resource systems detailed in the required reports
13 no later than five years from the issue date of
14 the reports; and

15 (C) Assign priority for the authorized cost-effective
16 energy efficiency measures described in
17 paragraphs (1) and (2) to first responder
18 facilities; and

19 (2) Require applicable state agencies to assess the
20 feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can



1 provide emergency services and be open to the general
2 public during times of emergency.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 **"§196- Distributed energy resource installation for**

7 **state facilities.** (a) Agencies shall take measures to assess
8 the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy
9 resource systems at each state facility and shall submit a
10 report to the legislature, detailing the findings as follows:

11 (1) Beginning on January 1, 2025, for all state facilities
12 that have not implemented section 36-41 since 2010;

13 and

14 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2027, for all other state
15 facilities.

16 (b) Agencies shall implement and install the distributed
17 energy resource systems detailed in the reports authorized under
18 subsection (a) no later than five years from the issue date of
19 the reports; provided that no entity shall claim tax credits or
20 deductions, or depreciate assets under title 14, for
21 implementing cost-effective energy efficiency measures pursuant



1 to this section; provided further that nothing in this
2 subsection shall prohibit facilities from implementing cost-
3 effective energy efficiency measures sooner than indicated under
4 subsection (a)(1) or (2).

5 (c) Applicable agencies shall assess the feasibility of
6 developing resilience hubs, which may be located at public or
7 private facilities and when feasible should be equipped with
8 distributed energy resource systems, that can provide emergency
9 services and be open to the general public during times of
10 emergency.

11 (d) Priority for measures described in subsections (a) and
12 (b) shall be given to first responder facilities.

13 (e) For purposes of this section:

14 "Cost-effective energy efficiency measure" means any energy
15 efficiency measure where the cost of the energy efficiency
16 measure is equal to or less than the estimated savings over a
17 period of twenty years or the life of the installed components,
18 whichever is less.

19 "Distributed energy resource system" means an assembly of
20 energy generating or energy storing materials, or any combined
21 assembly of solar energy generating and energy storing



1 materials, sited at or on a facility and the related
2 infrastructure necessary for its operation.

3 "Energy efficiency measure" means any energy services,
4 projects, and equipment, including but not limited to building
5 or facility energy conservation enhancing, demand management, or
6 demand response retrofits, which may include energy saved
7 offsite by water or other utility enhancing retrofits, to
8 improve the energy efficiency or reduce energy costs of the
9 facility.

10 "First responder" includes a firefighter, paramedic,
11 emergency medical technician, or other individual who, in the
12 course of the individual's professional duties, respond to fire,
13 medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.

14 "Resilience hub" means any facility that is open to the
15 general public for the purpose of providing emergency response
16 services, including but not limited to shelter, food, water,
17 medicine, emergent or urgent care medical services, energy,
18 electricity, telecommunications, internet access, fuel, and
19 electric vehicle charging."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Renewable Energy; Distributed Energy Resource Systems;
Resilience Hubs; Feasibility; Report; State Agencies; State
Facilities; First Responder Facilities; Solar Energy

Description:

Requires state agencies to assess the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each state facility and submit a report to the Legislature detailing their findings; implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports; and assign priority for the authorized cost-effective energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities. Requires applicable state agencies to assess the feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can provide emergency services and be open to the general public during times of emergency. Takes effect 7/1/2112. (SD1)

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

