

'JAN 25 2023

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# 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 the State'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 energy production at many of its own facilities,  
11 foregoing 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 coronavirus  
14 disease 2019 pandemic, the legislature recognizes the importance  
15 of elevating the State's growing clean energy industry, which  
16 can diversify the economy, create new jobs, contribute to  
17 workforce development, and help the State meet critical energy



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

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

19 The legislature further finds that the growing climate  
20 crisis threatens the health and well-being of the State's  
21 residents through the impacts of extreme weather events.



1 Stronger storms as a result of global warming are more likely to  
2 cause power outages, which can be costly in terms of lives lost,  
3 economic impact, and public health. Additionally, extreme  
4 weather events can result in severe damages to port  
5 infrastructure at the State's harbors, resulting in disruption  
6 of port activity and the delay or loss of cargo shipments,  
7 including those containing emergency supplies. The legislature  
8 acknowledges that building the State's resilience to the effects  
9 of global warming is in the best interest of the State's  
10 residents.

11 The legislature further finds that to ensure that  
12 preparations within the State will be adequate to deal with the  
13 emergencies caused by climate change, particularly in situations  
14 involving disruptions to the electric grid and port activity,  
15 state agencies, and in particular, first responders, must have  
16 the ability to function fully to assist with recovery efforts.  
17 Maintaining electricity at facilities, especially for first  
18 responders, is therefore paramount.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1           (1)   Require each department to prepare a report assessing
- 2                   the feasibility of installing distributed energy
- 3                   resource systems at each of its facility;
- 4           (2)   Require departments to implement and install the
- 5                   distributed energy resource systems for each of its
- 6                   facilities, as detailed in the reports no later than
- 7                   five years from the issue date of the reports; and
- 8           (3)   Give priority for the required energy efficiency
- 9                   measures to first responder facilities.

10           SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

13           "§196-     Distributed energy resource installation for  
14 state facilities; reports. (a) State departments shall assess  
15 the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource  
16 systems at each of its facilities and provide a report detailing  
17 the findings as follows:

- 18           (1)   Beginning on January 1, 2024, for each state facility
- 19                   that has not been retrofitted pursuant to section 36-
- 20                   41 since 2010; and



1       (2) Beginning on January 1, 2026, for each other state  
2           facility.

3       (b) State departments shall implement and install the  
4       distributed energy resource systems for each facility, as  
5       detailed in the reports required by subsection (a) no later than  
6       five years from the date the applicable report is submitted;  
7       provided that no entity shall claim tax credits or deductions,  
8       or depreciate assets under title 14 for implementing energy  
9       efficiency measures pursuant to this section; provided further  
10       that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit state facilities  
11       from implementing energy efficiency measures sooner than  
12       indicated by the reports required by subsection (a).

13       (c) Priority for the implementation and installation of  
14       energy efficiency measures required by this section shall be  
15       given to first responder facilities.

16       (d) For the purposes of this section:

17       "Distributed energy resource system" means an assembly of  
18       energy generating or energy storing materials, or any combined  
19       assembly of solar energy generating and energy storing  
20       materials, sited at or on a facility and the related  
21       infrastructure necessary for the facility's operation.



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

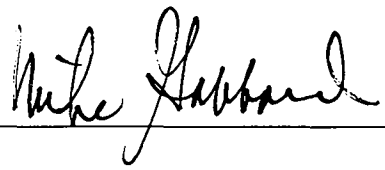
8       "Facility" means a structure under the control of any  
9 department of the state.

10       "First responder facility" means a facility used by  
11 firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, or  
12 other individuals who, in the course of their professional  
13 duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other  
14 similar emergencies."

15       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 1261

**Report Title:**

Renewable Energy; State Facilities; First Responder Facilities;  
Solar Energy

**Description:**

Requires state facilities to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. Requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports. Gives priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

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

