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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate resilience  
2 is essential in preventing and responding to natural  
3 emergencies. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and  
4 killed at least ninety-eight people, making it one of the  
5 nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires  
6 has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as  
7 unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-  
8 pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south.  
9 The wildfires destroyed over two thousand two hundred  
10 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic  
11 landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report  
12 from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the  
13 total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly  
14 \$5,500,000,000.

15           The legislature further finds that climate change is  
16 occurring as a result of human activity, particularly the  
17 burning of fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide. Continued



1 burning of fossil fuels can cause irreparable harm to the State  
2 and the planet. Thirty-four per cent of Hawaii's coastlines are  
3 vulnerable to intensifying coastal hazards resulting from  
4 accelerating sea level rise, according to a study performed by  
5 researchers at the University of Hawaii.

6 The legislature additionally finds that according to a  
7 report produced by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
8 adaptation commission, global sea levels could rise more than  
9 three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this  
10 occurring as early as 2060. The report also found that over the  
11 next thirty to seventy years, approximately six thousand five  
12 hundred structures, thirty-eight miles of coastal roads, five  
13 hundred fifty cultural sites, and nineteen thousand eight  
14 hundred people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding,  
15 resulting in an estimated \$19,000,000,000 in economic loss.

16 The legislature also finds that in response to the growing  
17 threat of climate change and natural disasters, the State has  
18 set standards and launched initiatives to expand sustainable and  
19 efficient energy reliance, including setting a statewide  
20 benchmark of generating one hundred per cent of the State's  
21 electricity through renewable resources by 2045 and establishing



1 a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at  
2 least fifty per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Meeting these  
3 initiatives will require increased employment in climate  
4 resilience, clean energy, and emergency preparedness positions  
5 for Hawaii's workforce.

6 The purpose of this Act is to task the Hawaii clean energy  
7 initiative program with designing and implementing a plan to  
8 increase jobs that strengthen emergency preparedness and climate  
9 resilience and authorizing the use of the energy security  
10 special fund to advance the State's goals of strengthening  
11 emergency preparedness and climate mitigation.

12 SECTION 2. Section 196-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) There is established within the department of  
15 business, economic development, and tourism, a Hawaii clean  
16 energy initiative program to manage the State's transition to a  
17 clean energy economy. The clean energy program shall design,  
18 implement, and administer activities that include:

19 (1) Strategic partnerships for the research, development,  
20 testing, deployment, and permitting of clean and  
21 renewable technologies;



- 1           (2)   Engineering and economic evaluations of Hawaii's
- 2                   potential for near-term project opportunities for the
- 3                   State's renewable energy resources;
- 4           (3)   Electric grid reliability and security projects that
- 5                   will enable the integration of a substantial increase
- 6                   of electricity from renewable-energy resources;
- 7           (4)   A statewide clean energy public education and outreach
- 8                   plan to be developed in coordination with Hawaii's
- 9                   institutions of public education;
- 10          (5)   Promotion of Hawaii's clean and renewable resources to
- 11                   potential partners and investors;
- 12          (6)   A plan, to be implemented from 2011 to 2030, to
- 13                   transition the State to a clean energy economy; ~~and~~
- 14          (7)   A plan, to be implemented from 2011 to 2030, to assist
- 15                   each county in transitioning to a clean energy
- 16                   economy~~[-]~~; and
- 17          (8)   A plan, to be implemented from 2025 to 2035, to
- 18                   increase jobs that strengthen emergency preparedness
- 19                   and climate resilience, especially those jobs that
- 20                   meet or exceed the self-sufficiency standard
- 21                   established by the department of business, economic



1           development, and tourism pursuant to section 201-  
2           3(a) (5); provided that the plan shall include  
3           strategies for expanding workforce development and  
4           training programs that assist workers employed in  
5           carbon-heavy jobs in obtaining positions that  
6           strengthen emergency preparedness, climate resilience,  
7           and disaster readiness and that provide an equivalent  
8           level of financial security."

9           SECTION 3. Section 201-12.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10          amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

11           "(b) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys from the  
12          fund may be expended by the Hawaii state energy office for the  
13          following purposes and used for no other purposes, except for  
14          those set forth in this section:

15           (1) To support the Hawaii clean energy initiative program  
16           and projects that promote and advance dependable and  
17           affordable energy, renewable energy, energy  
18           efficiency, energy self-sufficiency, and greater  
19           energy security and resiliency for the State and  
20           public facilities;



- 1           (2) To fund, to the extent possible, the climate change  
2           mitigation and adaptation commission and the  
3           greenhouse gas sequestration task force;
- 4           (3) To support achieving the zero emissions clean economy  
5           target set forth in section 225P-5;
- 6           (4) To fund projects and incentives to promote the  
7           adoption of clean transportation technologies, develop  
8           clean vehicle charging infrastructure, and upgrade  
9           infrastructure to support the development of clean  
10          vehicle charging infrastructure; [~~and~~]
- 11          (5) To fund, to the extent possible, the duties of the  
12          state building code council in section 107-24, as they  
13          relate to the development of energy conservation  
14          codes[~~-~~]; and
- 15          (6) To fund, to the extent possible, workforce development  
16          and training programs that advance the State's goals  
17          of strengthening emergency preparedness and climate  
18          resilience, including jobs that improve disaster  
19          readiness, increase clean energy generation, reduce  
20          carbon emissions, expand sustainable agriculture and  
21          local food production programs, and advance the



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1           State's transition to a clean energy economy; provided  
2           that priority shall be given to jobs that meet or  
3           exceed the self-sufficiency standard established by  
4           the department of business, economic development, and  
5           tourism pursuant to section 201-3(a)(5)."

6           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 18 2024



# H.B. NO. 1796

**Report Title:**

Climate Resilience; Emergency Preparedness; Workforce  
Development; Energy Security Special Fund

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii clean energy initiative program to design and implement a plan to increase jobs that strengthen emergency preparedness and climate resilience. Authorizes the use of the energy security special fund to advance the State's goals of strengthening emergency preparedness and climate mitigation.

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

