

JAN 24 2024

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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 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 Maui  
14 wildfires and the lingering impacts of the coronavirus pandemic,  
15 the legislature recognizes the importance of elevating Hawaii's  
16 growing clean energy industry, which can diversify the economy,  
17 create new jobs, contribute to workforce development, and help



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

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

20 The legislature further finds that the growing climate  
21 crisis threatens health and well-being through the impacts of



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

16 To ensure that preparations within the State will be  
17 adequate to deal with such emergencies, particularly in  
18 situations where there has been disruption to the electric grid  
19 and port activity, the legislature finds that state agencies,  
20 and in particular, first responders, must have the ability to  
21 have full-functioning capabilities toward recovery efforts.



1 Maintaining electricity at facilities, especially of first  
2 responders, is therefore paramount in these recovery efforts.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Require state facilities, with the exception of  
5 smaller facilities, to assess the potential and  
6 feasibility of installing distributed energy resource  
7 systems at each facility and provide a report  
8 detailing their findings;

9 (2) Require state facilities to implement and install the  
10 distributed energy resource systems detailed in the  
11 required reports no later than five years from the  
12 issue date of the reports; and

13 (3) Assign priority for the required energy efficiency  
14 measures described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to first  
15 responder facilities.

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

19 **"§196- Distributed energy resource installation for**  
20 **state facilities.** (a) The State shall take measures to assess  
21 the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy



1 resource systems at each state facility and provide a report  
2 detailing the findings as follows:

- 3       (1) Beginning on January 1, 2025, for all state facilities  
4           that have not implemented section 36-41 since 2010;  
5           and  
6       (2) Beginning on January 1, 2027, for all other state  
7           facilities.

8       (b) State facilities shall implement and install the  
9 distributed energy resource systems detailed in the required  
10 reports in subsection (a) no later than five years from the  
11 issue date of the reports; provided that no entity shall claim  
12 tax credits or deductions, or depreciate assets under title 14  
13 for implementing energy efficiency measures pursuant to this  
14 section; provided further that nothing in this subsection shall  
15 prohibit facilities from implementing energy efficiency measures  
16 sooner than indicated under subsection (a)(1) or (2).

17       (c) Applicable state agencies shall assess the feasibility  
18 of developing resilience hubs, which may be located at public or  
19 private facilities and when feasible should be equipped with  
20 distributed energy resource systems, that can provide emergency



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

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

5 (e) For purposes of this section:

6 "Cost-effective energy efficiency measure" means any energy  
7 efficiency measure where the cost of the energy efficiency  
8 measure is equal to or less than the estimated savings over a  
9 period of twenty years or the life of the installed components,  
10 whichever is less.

11 "Distributed energy resource system" means an assembly of  
12 energy generating or energy storing materials, or any combined  
13 assembly of solar energy generating and energy storing  
14 materials, sited at or on a facility and the related  
15 infrastructure necessary for its operation.

16 "Energy efficiency measure" means any energy services,  
17 projects, and equipment, including but not limited to building  
18 or facility energy conservation enhancing, demand management, or  
19 demand response retrofits, which may include energy saved  
20 offsite by water or other utility enhancing retrofits, to



1 improve the energy efficiency or reduce energy costs of the  
2 facility.

3 "First responder" includes firefighter, paramedic,  
4 emergency medical technician, or other individual who, in the  
5 course of the individual's professional duties, responds to  
6 fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.

7 "Resilience hub" means any facility that is open to the  
8 general public for the purpose of providing emergency response  
9 services, including but not limited to shelter, food, water,  
10 medicine, emergent or urgent care medical services, energy,  
11 electricity, telecommunications, internet access, fuel, and  
12 electric vehicle charging."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lynn DeCorte



# S.B. NO. 3357

**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. Assigns priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

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