

JAN 15 2025

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 one hundred two 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 \$5.5
14 billion.

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 billion 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:

7 (1) Require the Hawaii clean energy initiative program to
8 design and implement a plan to increase jobs that
9 strengthen emergency preparedness and climate
10 resilience; and

11 (2) Authorize the use of the energy security special fund
12 to advance the State's goals of strengthening
13 emergency preparedness and climate mitigation.

14 SECTION 2. Section 196-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as
16 follows:

17 "[+]§196-10.5[+] **Hawaii clean energy initiative program.**

18 (a) There is established within the department of business,
19 economic development, and tourism, a Hawaii clean energy
20 initiative program to manage the State's transition to a clean



1 energy economy. The clean energy program shall design,
2 implement, and administer activities that include:

- 3 (1) Strategic partnerships for the research, development,
4 testing, deployment, and permitting of clean and
5 renewable technologies;
- 6 (2) Engineering and economic evaluations of Hawaii's
7 potential for near-term project opportunities for the
8 State's renewable energy resources;
- 9 (3) Electric grid reliability and security projects that
10 will enable the integration of a substantial increase
11 of electricity from renewable-energy resources;
- 12 (4) A statewide clean energy public education and outreach
13 plan to be developed in coordination with Hawaii's
14 institutions of public education;
- 15 (5) Promotion of Hawaii's clean and renewable resources to
16 potential partners and investors;
- 17 (6) A plan, to be implemented from 2011 to 2030, to
18 transition the State to a clean energy economy; [~~and~~]
- 19 (7) A plan, to be implemented from 2011 to 2030, to assist
20 each county in transitioning to a clean energy
21 economy[~~-~~]; and



1 (8) A plan, to be implemented from 2026 to 2036, to
2 increase jobs that strengthen emergency preparedness
3 and climate resilience, especially those jobs that
4 meet or exceed the self-sufficiency standard
5 established by the department of business, economic
6 development, and tourism pursuant to section 201-
7 3(a)(5); provided that the plan shall include
8 strategies for expanding workforce development and
9 training programs that assist workers employed in
10 carbon-heavy jobs in obtaining positions that
11 strengthen emergency preparedness, climate resilience,
12 and disaster readiness and that provide an equivalent
13 level of financial security."

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

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

20 (1) To support the Hawaii clean energy initiative program
21 and projects that promote and advance dependable and



- 1 affordable energy, renewable energy, energy
2 efficiency, energy self-sufficiency, and greater
3 energy security and resiliency for the State and
4 public facilities;
- 5 (2) To fund, to the extent possible, the climate change
6 mitigation and adaptation commission and the
7 greenhouse gas sequestration task force;
- 8 (3) To support achieving the zero emissions clean economy
9 target set forth in section 225P-5;
- 10 (4) To fund projects and incentives to promote the
11 adoption of clean transportation technologies, develop
12 clean vehicle charging infrastructure, and upgrade
13 infrastructure to support the development of clean
14 vehicle charging infrastructure; ~~and~~
- 15 (5) To fund, to the extent possible, the duties of the
16 state building code council in section 107-24, as they
17 relate to the development of energy conservation
18 codes[-]; and
- 19 (6) To fund, to the extent possible, workforce development
20 and training programs that advance the State's goals
21 of strengthening emergency preparedness and climate

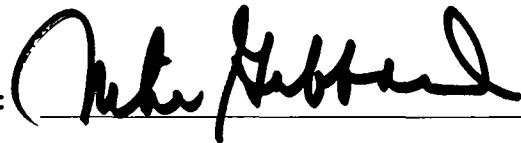


1 resilience, including jobs that improve disaster
2 readiness, increase clean energy generation, reduce
3 carbon emissions, expand sustainable agriculture and
4 local food production programs, and advance the
5 State's transition to a clean energy economy; provided
6 that priority shall be given to jobs that meet or
7 exceed the self-sufficiency standard established by
8 the department of business, economic development, and
9 tourism pursuant to section 201-3(a)(5)."

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

13 INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 233

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.

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