

JAN 15 2025

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 The legislature further finds that the State has long
13 recognized its responsibility to mitigate the effects of natural
14 and man-made emergencies that can result in extreme peril to
15 life, property, and the resources of the State. In 2021, the
16 legislature made history by becoming the first state in the
17 United States to declare a climate emergency. Senate Concurrent



1 Resolution No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 (2021) acknowledges that an
2 existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural
3 world, declares a climate emergency, requests statewide
4 collaboration toward an immediate transition and emergency
5 mobilization effort to restore a safe climate, and requests
6 entities statewide to pursue these climate mitigation and
7 adaptation efforts and mobilize at the necessary scale and
8 speed.

9 The legislature further finds that the growing climate
10 crisis threatens the health and well-being of the State's
11 residents through the impacts of extreme weather events.
12 Stronger storms as a result of climate change are more likely to
13 cause power outages, which can be costly in terms of lives lost,
14 economic impact, and public health. Additionally, extreme
15 weather events can result in severe damages to port
16 infrastructure at the State's harbors, resulting in disruption
17 of port activity and the delay or loss of cargo shipments,
18 including those containing emergency supplies. The legislature
19 acknowledges that building the State's resilience against the
20 effects of climate change is in the best interest of the State's
21 residents.



1 The legislature further finds that to ensure that
2 preparations within the State will be adequate to deal with the
3 emergencies caused by climate change, particularly in situations
4 involving disruptions to the electric grid and port activity,
5 state agencies, and in particular, first responders, must have
6 the ability to function fully to assist with recovery efforts.
7 Maintaining electricity at facilities, especially for first
8 responders, is therefore paramount.

9 The legislature also recognizes the devastating impact of
10 wildfires on the State's infrastructure and communities. The
11 2023 Maui wildfires serve as a tragic example, where downed
12 power lines ignited dry vegetation, leading to a catastrophic
13 destruction and significant loss of life and property. The
14 fires caused widespread power outages, leaving residents without
15 electricity during critical times, hindering emergency response
16 efforts, and exacerbating the community's vulnerability.

17 Furthermore, the legislature acknowledges that wildfires
18 can cause direct physical damage to utility infrastructure, such
19 as power lines and substations, leading to prolonged power
20 outages and significant economic impacts. The increasing
21 frequency and intensity of wildfires, driven by climate change,



1 underscores the urgent need to enhance the resilience of the
2 State's power infrastructure.

3 In light of these challenges, the legislature finds that
4 investing in on-site distributed energy resources at state
5 facilities, particularly those critical to emergency response,
6 is essential. Such investments will not only contribute to the
7 State's clean energy goals but also enhance the resilience of
8 essential services during disasters, ensuring that facilities
9 can maintain operations even when the centralized power grid is
10 compromised.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Require each state department to prepare a report
13 assessing the feasibility of installing distributed
14 energy resource systems at each of its facilities;
- 15 (2) Require state departments to implement and install the
16 distributed energy resource systems for each of its
17 facilities, as detailed in the reports, no later than
18 five years from the issue date of the reports; and
- 19 (3) Give priority for the required energy efficiency
20 measures to first responder facilities.



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

4 **"§196- Distributed energy resource installation for**
5 **state facilities; reports.** (a) All state departments shall
6 assess the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource
7 systems at each of the department's facilities and provide a
8 report detailing the findings as follows:

9 (1) Beginning on January 1, 2026, for each state facility
10 that has not been retrofitted pursuant to section
11 36-41 since 2010; and

12 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2028, for every other state
13 facility.

14 (b) All state departments shall implement and install the
15 distributed energy resource systems for each facility, as
16 detailed in the reports required by subsection (a), no later
17 than five years from the date the applicable report is
18 submitted; provided that no entity shall claim tax credits or
19 deductions, or depreciate assets under title 14 for implementing
20 energy efficiency measures pursuant to this section; provided
21 further that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit state



1 facilities from implementing energy efficiency measures sooner
2 than indicated by the reports required by subsection (a).

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

6 (d) For the purposes of this section:

7 "Distributed energy resource system" means an assembly of
8 energy generating or energy storing materials, or any combined
9 assembly of solar energy generating and energy storing
10 materials, sited at or on a facility and the related
11 infrastructure necessary for the facility's operation.

12 "Energy efficiency measure" means any energy services,
13 projects, and equipment, including but not limited to building
14 or facility energy conservation enhancements, demand management,
15 or demand response retrofits, which may include energy saved
16 offsite by water or other utility enhancing retrofits, to
17 improve the energy efficiency or reduce energy costs of the
18 facility.

19 "Facility" means a structure under the control of any
20 department of the State.



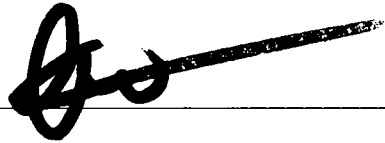
1 "First responder facility" means a facility used by
2 firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, or
3 other individuals who, in the course of their professional
4 duties, respond to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other
5 similar emergencies."

6 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 412

Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires state departments to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. Requires state departments 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.

