

JAN 24 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GASES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Earth's climate has
2 changed drastically over the past century, including global
3 rises in temperature, shrinkages in glaciers, snow cover, and
4 ice sheets, increases in ocean heat and acidity, and increases
5 in extreme weather events such as floods and hurricanes. The
6 legislature further finds that increased temperatures threaten
7 the health of Hawaii's citizens, as heat-related deaths have
8 risen nationally, and that changes in ocean heat and acidity
9 harm Hawaii's fragile ocean ecosystems, including its coral
10 reefs, which are natural treasures and major tourist
11 attractions.

12 The legislature also finds that the overwhelming majority
13 of scientists agree that humans cause climate change, including
14 through production of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide,
15 methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. However, the
16 United States has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement - a
17 coordinated multi-nation effort to reduce greenhouse gas



1 emissions on a global scale. Therefore, it falls to states such
2 as Hawaii to lead by example.

3 The legislature also finds that individuals can reduce
4 their greenhouse gas emissions by being more conscious of their
5 own actions, which may include disconnecting from an electric
6 grid that draws seventy-five per cent of its power from fossil
7 fuels, and instead installing on-site renewable energy systems,
8 energy efficiency systems, and energy storage systems. However,
9 other parties believe that it is in the public interest for
10 utility customers to stay connected to the electric grid;
11 otherwise, the remaining customers will bear a larger share of
12 fixed embedded costs. The legislature believes that individuals
13 who choose to remain connected to an electric grid that uses
14 fossil fuels should not be considered as serving the public
15 interest more than individuals who choose to disconnect from the
16 electric grid and thereby reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

17 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to not promote a
18 worldview where fossil fuel users are considered to be more in
19 the public interest than non-fossil fuel users.



S.B. NO. 3096

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 342B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§342B- Personal responsibility, greenhouse gases. The
5 State shall not discriminate against people who reduce their
6 greenhouse gas emissions."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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Report Title:

Greenhouse Gases; Discrimination

Description:

Prohibits the State from discriminating against persons who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

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