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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change is  
3 the overriding challenge of the twenty-first century. Climate  
4 change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's  
5 economy, public health, natural resources, environment, and way  
6 of life.

7 The legislature further finds that numerous measures were  
8 passed in recent decades to address climate change and reduce  
9 the State's contribution to climate-warming greenhouse gas  
10 emissions. In the regular session of 2021, Senate Concurrent  
11 Resolution No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, was adopted, making Hawaii  
12 the first state in the nation to declare a climate emergency and  
13 calling for a statewide commitment to a decarbonized economy.  
14 Through Act 74, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, the legislature set  
15 a goal to transition all light-duty state fleet vehicles to be  
16 zero-emissions by 2035. Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,  
17 established a zero emissions clean economy target for the State



1 to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than  
2 emitted by no later than 2045. With Act 97, Session Laws of  
3 Hawaii 2015, a one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard  
4 for electric utilities was established, requiring one hundred  
5 per cent of the State's electricity to be generated from  
6 renewable energy sources by 2045, making Hawaii the first state  
7 to set out to eliminate fossil fuels from the electric grid.

8 The legislature additionally finds that fifteen years ago,  
9 Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, was passed, which  
10 established a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions  
11 to below 1990 levels by 2020. The 2020 goal was achieved, but  
12 it is notable that there are no decarbonization targets in  
13 Hawaii law until 2045, which is twenty-three years into the  
14 future. The legislature believes that it is imperative to  
15 continue to build on Hawaii's momentum in its climate mitigation  
16 efforts by establishing near-term decarbonization targets.

17 The legislature further finds that the Biden-Harris  
18 administration set a nationally determined contribution pursuant  
19 to Article 4 of the Paris Agreement for the United States to  
20 achieve a fifty to fifty-two per cent reduction in economy-wide  
21 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. The



1 National Climate Advisor and the White House Office of Domestic  
2 Climate Policy, in consultation with the relevant departments  
3 and agencies across the federal government, conducted a detailed  
4 analysis to set this 2030 target, reviewing a range of pathways  
5 for each sector of the economy that produces greenhouse gas  
6 emissions, including electricity, transportation, buildings,  
7 industry, and the land sector. As the United States' national  
8 determined contribution is consistent with the Paris Agreement  
9 goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature  
10 to below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and  
11 pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5  
12 degrees Celsius, the State should similarly align its climate  
13 policy and decarbonization planning. Furthermore, Act 32,  
14 Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, affirmed the State's commitment to  
15 uphold the landmark goals of the Paris Agreement, by stating the  
16 "policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions shall be closely  
17 aligned with the climate change principals and goals adopted in  
18 the Paris Agreement and Hawaii's obligations within the  
19 expectations apportioned to the United States in the Paris  
20 Agreement".



1 The legislature also finds that, as the State progresses  
2 toward a fully decarbonized economy, the challenges of  
3 addressing hard-to-decarbonize sectors will also increase. In  
4 order to achieve the goal of a fully decarbonized economy, the  
5 State needs to plan ahead and understand the steps that need to  
6 be taken to create a carbon-negative economy by 2045, as  
7 required by Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

8 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

9 (1) Establish a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas  
10 emissions limit to be at least fifty per cent below  
11 2005 levels by 2030; and

12 (2) Require and appropriate funds for the Hawaii state  
13 energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's  
14 pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges,  
15 opportunities, and actions that will be needed to  
16 achieve those goals.

17 PART II

18 SECTION 2. Section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Considering both atmospheric carbon and greenhouse  
21 gas emissions as well as offsets from the local sequestration of



1 atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases through long-term sinks  
2 and reservoirs, a statewide target is hereby established to  
3 sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than  
4 emitted within the State as quickly as practicable, but no later  
5 than 2045[-]; provided that the statewide target includes a  
6 greenhouse gas emissions limit, to be achieved no later than  
7 2030, of at least fifty per cent below the level of the  
8 statewide greenhouse gas emissions in 2005."

9 SECTION 3. Section 342B-71, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "~~{}~~**§342B-71**~~{}~~ **Statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit,**  
12 **adoption.** (a) A statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be  
13 achieved by 2020 is hereby established that is equal to or below  
14 the level of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions in 1990, as  
15 determined by section 3 of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007;  
16 provided that for the purposes of this Act greenhouse gas  
17 emissions from airplanes shall not be included.

18 (b) The director shall submit a report to the legislature  
19 by December 31, 2023, indicating a measurement of the 2005  
20 greenhouse gas emissions in the State, including emissions from  
21 airplanes.



1       (c) The director shall complete a greenhouse gas emissions  
 2 inventory report each year beginning after 2017 to track  
 3 emissions and determine the State's progress in the reduction of  
 4 greenhouse gas emissions. The department shall make these  
 5 reports widely accessible, including to the public, as soon as  
 6 they are available."

PART III

8       SECTION 4. (a) The Hawaii state energy office shall  
 9 analyze pathways and develop recommendations for achieving the  
 10 State's economy-wide decarbonization goals, including the  
 11 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit and goal to sequester  
 12 more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted by no  
 13 later than 2045 pursuant to section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised  
 14 Statutes.

15       (b) As part of its analysis and development of  
 16 recommendations, the Hawaii state energy office shall:

17       (1) Recommend regulatory or other state actions that will  
 18           ensure the attainment of the State's decarbonization  
 19           goals;

20       (2) Include measures to reduce emissions from electricity,  
 21           including accelerating the adoption of clean energy



- 1 and improving energy efficiency for residential,  
2 commercial, and government users;
- 3 (3) Include land use and transportation planning measures  
4 aimed at reducing emissions from the transportation  
5 sector;
- 6 (4) Recommend state actions to address emissions  
7 associated with air travel and shipping, including how  
8 to encourage electrification and adoption of  
9 alternative fuels;
- 10 (5) Recommend best management practices in the  
11 agricultural sector;
- 12 (6) Include long-term carbon sequestration and carbon  
13 capture and utilization opportunities;
- 14 (7) Make recommendations to aid in the transition of the  
15 state workforce to meet the needs of a decarbonized  
16 economy;
- 17 (8) Consider impacts to environmental justice, frontline,  
18 and low-income communities and make recommendations  
19 for how to mitigate any impacts to these communities  
20 and to facilitate a just transition to a decarbonized  
21 economy;



- 1           (9) Determine the most cost-effective pathway to  
2           decarbonization;
- 3           (10) Rank recommendations based on level of impact, cost,  
4           and ease of implementation;
- 5           (11) Make recommendations on whether the goals established  
6           pursuant to section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
7           should be adjusted, or if additional interim goals  
8           between the completion of the analysis and 2045 should  
9           be adopted;
- 10          (12) Examine contributions of different carbon sources, how  
11          each source can be reduced, what entities are  
12          responsible for the reduction of each source, and how  
13          each source factors into the determination of  
14          statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals; and
- 15          (13) Include other relevant considerations as deemed  
16          appropriate and necessary.
- 17          (c) In preparing the analysis, the Hawaii state energy  
18 office shall consult and collaborate with other state agencies,  
19 the counties, and relevant stakeholders and organizations.
- 20          (d) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a report  
21 of its analysis and recommendations to the legislature no later





1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
2 of 2024.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the energy  
4 security special fund the sum of \$ . or so much thereof  
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Hawaii  
6 state energy office to analyze pathways and develop  
7 recommendations for achieving the State's economy-wide  
8 decarbonization goals, as required pursuant to section 4 of this  
9 Act; provided that the amount expended shall not count toward  
10 any expenditure ceiling of the energy security special fund.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
12 energy office for the purposes of this part.

13 PART IV

14 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2100.

17



**Report Title:**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limit; Hawaii State Energy Office;  
Pathway to Decarbonization; Study; Energy Security Special Fund;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least fifty per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Requires the Hawaii state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals. Appropriates funds out of the energy security special fund for the study. Effective 7/1/2100. (HD2)

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