
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 August 2023 Maui wildfires clearly demonstrate the
3 need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition risk and build
4 grid 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 cessation of port activity,
12 which cuts off the ability of cargo shipments, including
13 emergency supplies, to be received. The legislature finds that
14 building Hawaii's resilience against the effects of global
15 warming is 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 department of accounting and general
21 services shall take measures to assess the potential and



1 feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at
2 each state facility and provide a report detailing the findings
3 as follows:

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

7 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2027, for all other state
8 facilities.

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

18 (c) Applicable state agencies shall assess the feasibility
19 of developing resilience hubs, which may be located at public or
20 private facilities and when feasible should be equipped with
21 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 the energy costs of the
2 facility.

3 "First responder" includes a 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.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to prepare reports assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at state facilities. 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. (SD1)

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