
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 State has long
2 recognized its responsibility to mitigate the effects of natural
3 and man-made emergencies, which can result in extreme peril to
4 life, property, and the resources of the State, and generally to
5 protect the health and safety and preserve the lives and
6 property of the people of the State. In 2021, the legislature
7 made history by becoming the first state in the nation to
8 declare a climate emergency. S.C.R. No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
9 (2021), acknowledged that an existential climate emergency
10 threatens humanity and the natural world, declared a climate
11 emergency, and requested statewide collaboration toward an
12 immediate, just transition and emergency mobilization effort to
13 restore a safe climate. The resolution requested that entities
14 statewide pursue these climate mitigation and adaptation efforts
15 and mobilize at the necessary scale and speed.

16 The legislature further finds that the growing climate
17 crisis threatens the health and well-being of the public through



1 the impacts of extreme weather events. Most recently, the
2 horrific losses caused by the 2023 Maui wildfires clearly
3 demonstrated the need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition
4 risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided
5 by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage. Stronger
6 storms as a result of climate change are more likely to cause
7 power outages and down power lines and, in addition to the risk
8 of sparking wildfires, can be costly in terms of lives lost,
9 economic impact, and effects on public health. Furthermore,
10 extreme weather events can result in severe damage to port
11 infrastructure at the State's harbors, resulting in disruption
12 and ceasing of port activity, and cutting off the ability of
13 cargo shipments, including emergency supplies, to be received.
14 Therefore, the legislature finds that building the State's
15 resilience against the effects of climate change is in the best
16 interests of the people of Hawaii.

17 To ensure that preparations within the State will be
18 adequate to deal with these emergencies, particularly in
19 situations where there has been disruption to the electric grid
20 and port activity, the legislature finds that state agencies
21 should have the ability to have full-functioning capabilities



1 toward recovery efforts. Maintaining electricity at state
2 facilities is therefore paramount in these recovery efforts.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
4 Hawaii state energy office, with assistance from applicable
5 state departments, to assess the feasibility of developing
6 resilience hubs that can provide emergency services and be open
7 to the general public during times of emergency and submit a
8 report of the office's findings.

9 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii state energy office shall
10 collaborate with state agencies to assess the feasibility of
11 developing resilience hubs, which may be located at public or
12 private facilities, and when feasible, shall utilize renewable
13 energy, that can provide emergency services and be open to the
14 general public during times of emergency.

15 (b) The Hawaii state energy office shall submit a report
16 of the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study,
17 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
19 of 2026.

20 (c) For purposes of this section, "resilience hub" means
21 any facility that is open to the general public for the purpose



1 of providing emergency response services, including but not
2 limited to shelter, food, water, medicine, emergency or urgent
3 care medical services, energy, electricity, telecommunications,
4 internet access, fuel, and electric vehicle charging."

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect January 1, 2491.



Report Title:

HSEO; Renewable Energy; State Facilities; Resilience Hubs;
Feasibility; Report

Description:

Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office, in collaboration with state departments, to assess the potential and feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can provide emergency services and be open to the general public during times of emergency. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 1/1/2491.
(SD1)

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