

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ZERO-EMISSIONS VEHICLES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State and  
2 counties are committed to accelerating the transition to  
3 zero-emission vehicles. A key step in advancing these goals is  
4 expanding access to charging infrastructure to support the  
5 widespread adoption of zero-emissions vehicles by the  
6 government, private entities, and the general public.

7       The legislature further finds that Act 122, Session Laws of  
8 Hawaii 2019, established the Hawaii state energy office to  
9 promote clean transportation as part of its expanded mission to  
10 assist in the decarbonization of the State's economy. This  
11 legislation aligns with the State's affirmation that energy  
12 planning must give due consideration to increased energy  
13 security and self-sufficiency through the reduction and ultimate  
14 elimination of Hawaii's dependence on imported fuels for  
15 electrical generation and ground transportation.

16       The legislature additionally finds that federal officials  
17 have targeted numerous programs that stimulate the adoption of



1 clean energy and electric vehicles in 2025, heightening the  
2 urgency of enacting state policies to safeguard these programs  
3 at the local level. According to a white paper published by the  
4 Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard  
5 University in March 2025, federal efforts to cut electric  
6 vehicle tax credits will likely reduce zero-emissions vehicle  
7 adoption rates by six per cent, while increasing carbon  
8 emissions by 20.3 million metric tons over baseline projections  
9 for 2030.

10 The legislature also finds that the Harvard study found  
11 that eliminating zero-emissions vehicles that were included in  
12 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 and Inflation  
13 Reduction Act of 2022 could erode electric vehicle sales by  
14 another sixteen per cent. The enactment of such policies has  
15 caused automakers and other companies in the vehicle space to  
16 significantly pull back on their investments in electric  
17 vehicles. In September 2025, electric vehicle producer Rivian  
18 announced a reduction of 4.5 per cent of its workforce. In  
19 October, General Motors announced that more than three thousand  
20 three hundred employees would be laid off from factories in



1 several states, largely because of new policies targeting  
2 electric vehicles.

3       The legislature believes that the adoption of electric  
4 vehicles is essential to the State's climate change mitigation  
5 strategies. To encourage broader use of zero-emissions  
6 vehicles, the State must guarantee stable funding for  
7 zero-emissions vehicle charging infrastructure. Investing in  
8 charging infrastructure leads to reduced dependence on imported  
9 fossil fuels and encourages electric vehicle adoption, including  
10 state mandates that require public agencies procuring new  
11 light-duty passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, or  
12 multi-purpose passenger vehicles to prioritize the purchase of  
13 zero-emission vehicles, with the goal of attaining one hundred  
14 per cent fleet conversion by 2035.

15       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide funding  
16 for the Hawaii state energy office to continue its efforts to  
17 strengthen zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure throughout the  
18 State.

19       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
2 Hawaii state energy office to:

3 (1) Inventory existing fleets that may be transitioned to  
4 zero-emissions vehicles;

5 (2) Identify necessary charging infrastructure and energy  
6 resources that are necessary to accelerate the  
7 adoption of zero-emission vehicles by government  
8 agencies, private sector businesses, and the general  
9 public;

10 (3) Assess locations that may be suitable for the  
11 implementation of zero-emissions vehicle charging  
12 infrastructure; and

13 (4) Develop projects and plans for the expansion of  
14 zero-emissions charging infrastructure statewide,  
15 including any cost projections related to the  
16 installation of the infrastructure.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
18 energy office for the purposes of this Act.



1       SECTION 4.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:           *Stacy*          



# S.B. NO. 2241

**Report Title:**

HSEO; Zero-Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure; Government Vehicles; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Hawaii State Energy Office to analyze zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure in the State.

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