
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC-READY NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

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

1 SECTION 1. As the cost of photovoltaic systems continues
2 to fall, the installation of residential photovoltaic systems
3 will become increasingly cost-effective. The legislature finds,
4 however, that installation of these systems on existing
5 structures can be hindered by initial construction design
6 features that limit the physical space available for
7 installation of photovoltaic systems and related equipment. A
8 policy requiring all new single-family residential construction
9 to incorporate design elements and minimal equipment
10 installation to make the structure photovoltaic-ready at the
11 time of initial construction would facilitate the widespread
12 adoption of photovoltaic systems.

13 Photovoltaic-ready requirements would ensure that new
14 residential construction is designed to reap the maximum
15 benefits of future solar technology installations, thus reducing
16 potential cost-recoupment periods after solar technologies are
17 installed. Widespread adoption of solar technologies on



1 residential buildings would result in reduced energy demand and
2 reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group to
4 study the feasibility of requiring all new single-family
5 residential construction to incorporate design elements and
6 minimal equipment installation to make the structure
7 photovoltaic-ready at the time of initial construction.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a working group to
9 study the feasibility of requiring all new single-family
10 residential construction to be photovoltaic-ready at the time of
11 initial construction, to be placed within the department of
12 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative
13 purposes.

14 (b) The working group shall consider strategies for
15 facilitating the widespread adoption of photovoltaic systems
16 including:

- 17 (1) The incorporation of specific design elements in new
18 residential structures to make the structures
19 photovoltaic-ready;
- 20 (2) Minimal retrofitting and equipment installation for
21 future photovoltaic accommodation; and



- 1 (3) Blueprints and labeling that detail photovoltaic
2 system accommodations and connections;
- 3 (4) Identifying areas in the State where the use of
4 photovoltaic systems would be impractical or where
5 other renewable energy resources are more readily
6 available; and
- 7 (5) Any other issues the working group considers
8 appropriate.
- 9 (c) The working group shall comprise the following
10 members:
- 11 (1) The director of business, economic development, and
12 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 13 (2) The executive director of the state building code
14 council, or the executive director's designee;
- 15 (3) One county building official from each of the
16 counties, to be appointed by the respective mayor;
- 17 (4) A representative from the photovoltaic industry, who
18 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
19 representatives;
- 20 (5) A contractor-builder, who shall be appointed by the
21 president of the senate;



- 1 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Association of
- 2 Realtors;
- 3 (7) A member of the state house of representatives
- 4 appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 5 representatives, or the representative's designee;
- 6 (8) A member of the state senate appointed by the
- 7 president of the senate, or the senator's designee;
- 8 and
- 9 (9) Any additional members the chairperson of the working
- 10 group determines to be necessary.

11 (d) The members of the working group shall designate a

12 chairperson from among its members and shall serve without

13 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including

14 travel expenses, incurred in performance of official duties.

15 (e) The working group shall report to the legislature its

16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed

17 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the regular

18 session of 2012.

19 (f) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,

20 2012.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Photovoltaic; New Construction; Residential; Feasibility Study

Description:

Establishes a working group to study the feasibility of requiring all new single-family residential construction to incorporate design elements and minimum equipment installation at the time of construction to facilitate the future adoption of a photovoltaic system. (CD1)

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