
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ADOPT RULES TO
REQUIRE ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES TO PERMIT GROUP NET
METERING.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has supported its growing solar energy
2 market with incentives including tax credits, net metering, and
3 feed-in tariffs; and
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5 WHEREAS, numerous policies have been introduced to
6 encourage the use of renewable energy in the State and to work
7 toward the goals of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; and
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9 WHEREAS, although incentives have encouraged many
10 residential users to invest in solar technology for their homes,
11 only twenty-two to twenty-seven percent of residential buildings
12 in the State are suitable for hosting on-site photovoltaic
13 energy systems due to structural features, shading, or ownership
14 issues; and
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16 WHEREAS, solar energy programs need to provide options for
17 residents and tenants in multi-unit buildings, residences, and
18 other buildings with rooftops that cannot accommodate
19 photovoltaic system placement, and for persons who otherwise
20 cannot install a photovoltaic system on-site; and
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22 WHEREAS, group net metering means the elective combination
23 of a group of customers or the multiple meters of a single
24 customer as a single billing entity for the purpose of
25 collective metering of electricity consumption; and
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27 WHEREAS, other states and municipalities have used group
28 net metering to make photovoltaic energy generation more widely
29 accessible to households and consumers and broaden investment in
30 solar energy; and
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32 WHEREAS, in addition to making photovoltaic energy more
33 accessible, participation in a group net metering program can



1 help consumers lower their up-front purchase costs for solar
2 energy systems; and

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4 WHEREAS, group net metering may also help the State reach
5 its solar energy goals by accelerating solar purchases; and

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7 WHEREAS, virtual net metering, a type of group net metering
8 that is available to entire communities, enables participants to
9 receive utility bill credits or another agreed-upon form of
10 compensation for the electricity produced by their share of a
11 jointly-owned photovoltaic system; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2012, that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to
16 adopt rules to enable group net metering that at a minimum
17 prescribe:

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19 (1) The number of customer-generators that may participate
20 in a group net metering system;
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22 (2) The allowable geographic distribution of customers
23 that may participate in a group net metering system;
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25 (3) The total number of kilowatts that may be aggregated
26 among all customers participating in a group net
27 metering system;
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29 (4) The distribution of excess electricity credits among
30 meters or customers within a group net metering
31 system; and
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33 (5) A standard contract or tariff providing for group net
34 metering, which shall not affect the rate classes for
35 customers who participate in group net metering; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that electric utility companies are
38 requested to provide group net metering at the request of an
39 eligible customer generator; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public
 3 Utilities Commission, the Presidents of Hawaiian Electric
 4 Company, Inc., Maui Electric Company Ltd., and Hawaii Electric
 5 Light Company, Inc., and the Chairperson of the Board of Kauai
 6 Island Utility Cooperative.

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