
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are over forty
2 thousand photovoltaic electricity generating systems installed
3 within the State, providing a total generating capacity of over
4 three hundred megawatts of electricity. These systems have
5 reduced the State's reliance on fossil fuels, created jobs,
6 established Hawaii as a leader in clean energy, and advanced the
7 State's goal of generating seventy per cent of its energy from
8 renewable sources by the year 2030.

9 The legislature also finds that, in September 2013, an
10 electric utility company in the State changed its internal rules
11 to require company approval before connecting a photovoltaic
12 system to the electric grid. As a result, as many as four
13 thousand five hundred photovoltaic systems currently await
14 approval for connection to the grid. This rule change has
15 decreased the number of annual photovoltaic installations by
16 eighty per cent and has effectively prevented thousands of
17 households from using clean energy to power their homes. In



1 addition, many customers received loans to fund the installation
2 of a photovoltaic system, but they have yet to receive electric
3 utility approval to connect their system to the electric grid.
4 These customers are now faced with the unaffordable burden of
5 both their monthly electricity bill and loan payments. The
6 electric utilities claim that the approval process takes time
7 because each photovoltaic system feeds electricity to the
8 electric grid and can reduce grid stability. However, electric
9 utilities also are delaying the approval of systems that do not
10 feed electricity into the grid, such as those with battery
11 storage.

12 The purpose of this Act is to expedite the approval process
13 for photovoltaic and other consumer electricity generation
14 systems that do not feed electricity into the electric grid.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to part VI to be appropriately
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 "§269- Non-export system; interconnection agreement
19 application; automatic approval. (a) An electric utility shall
20 approve or approve with modification all non-export system
21 interconnection agreement applications within thirty days of



1 submission of a complete non-export system interconnection
2 agreement application and full payment of any reasonable
3 applicable fee. If, on the thirty-first day, a non-export
4 system interconnection agreement application is not approved or
5 approved with modification by the electric utility, the non-
6 export system interconnection agreement application shall be
7 deemed approved by the electric utility.

8 (b) As used in this section, "non-export system" means an
9 eligible customer-generator that does not feed electricity to
10 the electric grid. An eligible customer-generator that
11 occasionally and without compensation feeds electricity to the
12 electric grid for _____ milliseconds or less for safety
13 purposes shall not be excluded from the definition of non-export
14 system."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
2 and shall apply to all non-export system interconnection
3 agreement applications submitted to an electric utility after
4 July 1, 2015.

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JAN 21 2015



H.B. NO. 2

Report Title:

Renewable Energy; Non-export System; Net Energy Metering;
Electric Utilities

Description:

Requires that all interconnection agreement applications for solar, wind, or similar electrical generation devices that do not feed electricity to the electric grid be automatically approved by an electric utility within 30 days.

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