
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii ranks third
2 in the United States for solar power generation per capita.
3 Solar power will be key to achieving the State's goal of
4 generating one hundred per cent of the State's electricity from
5 renewable energy sources by 2045. Many Hawaii residents and
6 businesses install solar panels each year, in part due to public
7 utilities commission policies. In addition to exporting
8 electricity generated by customers to the electricity grid,
9 Hawaii can maximize the benefits of renewable energy resources
10 by finding ways to efficiently utilize excess energy generation.

11 The legislature also finds that energy storage is one
12 solution to the problem of excess electricity generation during
13 daylight hours. However, energy storage is often expensive and
14 limited in capacity. A second solution is for the electric
15 utilities to sell excess electricity to consumers for purposes
16 such as hydrogen production or protected agriculture, at a rate
17 that encourages efficient utilization of available renewable



1 energy resources. The sale of excess electricity from the grid
2 to consumers is known as "smart imports."

3 The legislature further finds that smart imports can reduce
4 electricity rates and effectively utilize energy resources
5 during periods of excess electricity generation. This can help
6 more Hawaii residents and businesses transition to using
7 electric vehicles through low cost charging. Smart imports can
8 significantly boost the solar, battery storage, and electric
9 vehicle industries.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require electric utilities to
11 offer excess electricity to consumers to help create a more
12 sustainable environment in the State.

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

16 "§269- Smart imports; excess electricity. (a)
17 Beginning January 1, 2022, electric utilities shall offer smart
18 imports to consumers at a just and reasonable rate that is
19 approved by the public utilities commission.



1 (b) For the purposes of this section, "smart imports"
2 means the sale of excess electricity from electric utilities to
3 consumers."

4 SECTION 3. (a) The public utilities commission shall
5 direct the State's electric utilities to study other states'
6 smart imports programs, solar and energy storage solutions, and
7 related solutions to excess electricity generation and propose a
8 "smart imports" program in Hawaii to be implemented no later
9 than January 1, 2022. The public utilities commission shall
10 submit a report of the findings and recommendations, including
11 any proposed legislation, of the electric utilities to the
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the regular session of 2021.

14 (b) For the purposes of this section, "smart imports"
15 means the sale of excess electricity from electric utilities to
16 consumers.

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



H.B. NO. 1855

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Mike E. Lowman*

JAN 16 2020



H.B. NO. 1855

Report Title:

PUC; Smart Imports; Excess Electricity; Energy

Description:

Requires electric utilities to offer smart imports, or excess electricity, to consumers beginning 1/1/2022. Requires PUC to direct the State's electric utilities to study and recommend how to implement a smart imports program in Hawaii by 1/1/2022.

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