

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of fossil
2 fuels to heat water is one of the most significant contributors
3 to environmental pollution. Its use also perpetuates Hawaii's
4 dependence on imported petroleum products.

5 The legislature further finds that solar energy is the most
6 abundant renewable energy resource in Hawaii. Using solar
7 energy for water heating is the best "clean" energy alternative
8 for homes in the State. In addition, the use of solar energy
9 devices for water heating will provide consumers with
10 significant cost savings, compared to the use of traditional
11 water heating resources that use petroleum products with
12 unstable and increasing costs.

13 The concept of mandating solar water heating is not new.
14 Israel has had this policy in place since 1957, recognizing the
15 need to be petroleum independent from their neighboring
16 countries. In the United States, more than 1.5 million homes
17 and businesses currently use solar water heating.



1 The purpose of this Act is to increase the use of renewable
2 energy to protect our environment, reduce pollution, and make
3 housing more affordable by requiring the installation of solar
4 energy devices for water heating in all new residential
5 development projects with fifty units or more and to require the
6 counties to establish rules requiring the installation of solar
7 energy devices.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§196- Solar energy devices required for new residential
12 construction; water heating. (a) Beginning January 1, 2010,
13 solar energy devices, as provided in section 196-7, shall be
14 installed to heat water, in the construction of every new
15 residential development with fifty units or more of single-
16 family residences, condominiums, and townhouses, except for new
17 developments providing low- and moderate-income housing as
18 defined in section 39A-281.

19 (b) Installation of solar energy devices shall be in
20 accordance with Hawaiian Electric Company's 100-point
21 installation inspection or a comparable quality assurance
22 standard.



1 (c) By January 1, 2009, each county shall establish rules
2 that require the installation of solar energy devices to heat
3 water, in the construction of:

4 (1) Twenty-five per cent of all new residential single-
5 family residences, condominiums, and townhouses, by
6 2015; and

7 (2) Fifty per cent of all new residential single-family
8 residences, condominiums, and townhouses, by 2020."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Energy Conservation; Solar Energy Devices; Water Heating

Description:

Requires all new development projects with over fifty units to install solar energy devices for water heating and requires the counties to establish rules for the installation of solar energy devices for water heating.

