

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. In 2002, the legislature recognized that:
- 2 (1) There is a widespread shortage of petroleum and its
- 3 derivatives that has caused severe economic hardships
- 4 throughout the State of Hawaii and threatens to impair
- 5 the public health, safety, and welfare;
- 6 (2) The current energy crisis is caused by a global energy
- 7 shortage that will worsen through the remainder of
- 8 this decade; and
- 9 (3) The State of Hawaii, with its near total dependence on
- 10 imported fossil fuel for energy, is particularly
- 11 vulnerable to dislocations in the global energy
- 12 market.

13 The environmental challenges confronting Hawaii and the

14 global community have increased and overwhelming consumption of

15 fossil fuel continues to threaten the human population and the

16 earth's very survival. The wisest response to this impending

17 crisis is to select courses of action that allow economic

18 expansion while minimizing harm to the environment.



1 As there are few places in the world as generously endowed
2 with natural, non-polluting power sources as Hawaii, clearly,
3 the deployment of renewable energy resources, such as solar
4 thermal energy, should be aggressively pursued whenever
5 economically feasible. The benefits of such a pursuit include:

- 6 (1) Adding clean energy to the State's resources;
- 7 (2) Reducing risk by diversifying the State's energy
8 portfolio;
- 9 (3) Mainstreaming solar power development, improving its
10 technology, and increasing its affordability; and
- 11 (4) Establishing Hawaii as a world-class solar market.

12 The purpose of this Act is to direct each county to require
13 the installation of solar thermal energy systems in new
14 residential developments.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:

18 "§46- Residential solar thermal energy systems. (a)

19 By January 1, 2010, each county shall incorporate into its
20 building code a requirement that solar thermal energy systems be
21 installed in new developments with six or more:

- 22 (1) Single-family dwellings; or



1 (2) Multi-family residential units.

2 All plans and specifications submitted with or in connection
3 with an application for a building or construction permit shall
4 bear the certification by a registered architect or engineer
5 that the plans and specifications comply with this requirement.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, "solar thermal energy
7 system" means any identifiable facility, equipment, apparatus,
8 or the like, including a photovoltaic cell application, that is
9 applicable to a single-family or multi-family residential unit
10 and makes use of solar energy for heating, cooling, or reducing
11 the use of other types of energy dependent upon fossil fuel for
12 generation; provided that "solar thermal energy system" shall
13 not include skylights or windows."

14 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
16 begun, before its effective date.

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Report Title:

Solar Energy; Renewable Energy; Residential Units

Description:

Directs the counties to require the installation of solar thermal energy systems for new residential developments with 6 or more single-family dwellings or multi-family units.

