

JAN 21 2010

S.B. NO. 2235

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC READY NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

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

1 SECTION 1. As the cost of photovoltaic systems continues
2 to fall, the installation of residential photovoltaic systems
3 will become increasingly cost effective. However, installation
4 of these systems on existing homes can be hindered by design
5 features that were incorporated at the time of initial
6 construction that limit the physical space available for
7 photovoltaic systems and related equipment. A policy requiring
8 all new single-family residential construction to incorporate
9 design elements and minimal equipment installation to make the
10 structure photovoltaic-ready at the time of initial construction
11 will facilitate widespread adoption of photovoltaic systems in
12 the future.

13 This policy will optimize future gains from solar
14 technology adoption. Photovoltaic-ready requirements will
15 ensure that new residential construction is designed to reap the
16 maximum benefits of future solar technology installations, thus
17 reducing potential cost-recoupment periods after solar



1 technologies are installed. Widespread adoption of solar
2 technologies on residential buildings will result in reduced
3 energy demand on the grid and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
4 Individuals who choose to install solar technologies will
5 benefit from reduced electricity costs; that savings can be
6 substantial depending on fossil fuel prices. This policy also
7 helps to develop a market for solar technology construction and
8 design and increases awareness of solar technologies in the
9 construction industry for homeowners in general. These are
10 crucial factors in addressing barriers to solar adoption.

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

14 "§196- Photovoltaic-ready new residential construction.

15 (a) Effective January 1, 2012, no building permit shall be
16 issued for a single-family dwelling that does not include:

17 (1) Provisions for future photovoltaic accommodation,
18 including:

19 (A) Conduit from the ridge cap to the subpanel for
20 the residential dwelling electrical distribution
21 system; and



1 (B) Adequate sizing of the subpanel to accommodate
2 the residential load plus any future photovoltaic
3 system that may be installed; and

4 (2) Blueprints and labeling that detail photovoltaic
5 system accommodations and connections.

6 (b) Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from
7 establishing procedures and standards required to implement this
8 section.

9 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any person from
10 participating in any utility demand-side management program or
11 energy efficiency program under the public benefits fund
12 pursuant to part VII of chapter 269."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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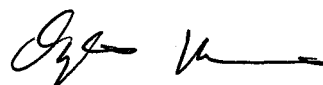
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S.B. NO. 2235

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Report Title:

Photovoltaic Ready New Residential Homes

Description:

Requires that new single-family residential construction incorporate design elements and minimum equipment installation at the time of construction to facilitate the future adoption of a photovoltaic system.

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