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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. The purpose of this Act is to require that new  
2 single-family residences constructed on or after January 1, 2012  
3 incorporate design elements and basic equipment that will allow  
4 for the future installation of a photovoltaic electrical  
5 generation system on the residence.

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

9           "§196-\_\_ Photovoltaic ready new residential homes. (a)  
10 On or after January 1, 2012, no building permit shall be issued  
11 for a single-family dwelling that does not include photovoltaic  
12 ready design elements that:

13           (1) Provide for future photovoltaic accommodation, which  
14           shall include conduits from the ridge cap to the  
15           subpanel for the residential dwelling electrical  
16           distribution system, sizing the subpanel to  
17           accommodate the residential load and any future  
18           photovoltaic system to be installed; provide that the

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1           roof's structural load-bearing capacity shall be such  
2           that the weight of a photovoltaic system can be  
3           accommodated; and

4           (2) Include blueprints and labeling detailing photovoltaic  
5           system placement 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 the  
10          participation of the dwelling owner in any utility demand-side  
11          management program or public benefits fund program under part  
12          VII of chapter 269."

13                 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is  
14 bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15                 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its  
16 approval.

17  
18                         INTRODUCED BY:



BY REQUEST

JAN 25 2010

**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 so as to facilitate the future adoption of a photovoltaic system.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC READY NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

PURPOSE: To require that new single-family residences built on or after January 1, 2012 incorporate design elements and include the installation of basic equipment to permit the homeowner to install a photovoltaic electrical power generation system.

MEANS: Add a new section to chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: As photovoltaic electrical power generation systems become more affordable, the installation of residential photovoltaic systems become a viable option for homeowners to consider to lower their electrical energy costs. The installation of these systems on existing homes can be hindered as a result of design features at the time the home was constructed that limit the physical space available for photovoltaic systems and related equipment.

Impact on the public: This measure would ensure that families purchasing new single-family residences constructed after January 1, 2012 will have the option of installing a photovoltaic electrical generation system in their residence without having to incur additional costs of ensuring the structure can accommodate a photovoltaic system. The most common structural elements include the load-bearing capacity of the roof, the surface area of the roof to accommodate the system, and the electrical channels necessary to bring power into the dwelling.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism will be responsible

for working with the construction industry and applicable county building permit offices to ensure compliance with the provisions of this measure.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: BED-120.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: County building and permitting departments and State Building Code Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.