

JAN 23 2009

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 increased use of solar
9 water heater systems will provide consumers with significant
10 cost savings, compared to the use of traditional water heating
11 resources that use petroleum products with unstable and
12 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 water heater systems in all new condominiums or townhouses with
5 fifty units or more and to require the counties to establish
6 rules requiring the installation of solar water heater systems.

7 SECTION 2. Section 196-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "~~+~~\$196-6.5~~+~~ **Solar water heater system required for new**
10 **single-family residential construction.** (a) On or after
11 January 1, 2010, no building permit shall be issued for a
12 single-family dwelling or a condominium or townhouse with fifty
13 units or more, that does not include a solar water heater system
14 that meets the standards established pursuant to section 269-44,
15 unless the energy resources coordinator approves a variance~~-~~;
16 provided that this requirement shall not apply to low- and
17 moderate-income housing projects as defined in section 39A-281.

18 A variance shall only be approved if an architect or engineer
19 licensed under chapter 464 attests that:

20 (1) Installation is impracticable due to poor solar
21 resource;



1 (2) Installation is cost-prohibitive based upon a life
2 cycle cost-benefit analysis that incorporates the
3 average residential utility bill and the cost of the
4 new solar water heater system with a life cycle that
5 does not exceed fifteen years;

6 (3) A substitute renewable energy technology system, as
7 defined in section 235-12.5, is used as the primary
8 energy source for heating water; or

9 (4) A demand water heater device approved by Underwriters
10 Laboratories, Inc., is installed; provided that at
11 least one other gas appliance is installed in the
12 dwelling. For the purposes of this paragraph, "demand
13 water heater" means a gas-tankless instantaneous water
14 heater that provides hot water only as it is needed.

15 (b) A request for a variance shall be submitted to the
16 energy resources coordinator on an application prescribed by the
17 energy resources coordinator and shall include, but not be
18 limited to, a description of the location of the property and
19 justification for the approval of a variance using the criteria
20 established in subsection (a). A variance shall be deemed
21 approved if not denied within thirty working days after receipt
22 of the variance application.



1 (c) By January 1, 2009, each county shall establish rules
2 that require the installation of solar water heater systems in
3 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 Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from
10 establishing procedures and standards required to implement this
11 section.

12 (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude participation
13 in any utility demand-side management program or public benefits
14 fund under part VII of chapter 269."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Norman Soban



Report Title:

Energy Conservation; Solar Water Heater Systems

Description:

Requires all new development projects with over 50 units to install solar water heater systems and requires the counties to establish rules for the installation of solar water heater systems.

