
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every effort must be
2 made to ensure that more renewable energy is used in the State
3 to lessen our dependence on expensive and environmentally
4 harmful fossil fuels. Currently, each business or homeowner who
5 wants to add distributed generation, including solar or wind
6 power, must undergo a very expensive "interconnection
7 requirement study" if their property is within an area with a
8 high number of homes or businesses with existing solar or wind
9 power systems. The interconnection requirement study, which can
10 cost between \$3,000 and millions of dollars, depending on the
11 size, is designed to determine the area circuit's ability to
12 accept additional distributed generation without adverse effects
13 on others connected to the circuit. Because each homeowner or
14 business that wants to add distributed generation is forced to
15 conduct the expensive interconnection requirement study, many
16 homeowners and businesses refrain from utilizing these renewable
17 energy sources. If homeowners and businesses could share the
18 costs of the interconnection requirement study, more people



1 would utilize the renewable energy sources that are so prevalent
2 throughout the State, resulting in a cleaner environment and
3 less dependence on imported oil.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the public utilities
5 commission to adopt rules to allow group interconnection
6 requirement studies.

7 SECTION 2. The public utilities commission shall adopt
8 rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow
9 interconnection requirement studies to be conducted and paid for
10 on a group basis. The group may consist of any number of
11 homeowners and businesses; provided that the homeowners and
12 businesses are a part of the same area circuit.

13 SECTION 3. The chair of the public utilities commission
14 shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty
15 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2013 on
16 the status of the rules required under section 2 of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Gynthia Thiele
JAN 25 2012



H.B. NO. 2733

Report Title:

PUC; Interconnection Study; Group

Description:

Requires the PUC to adopt rules allowing interconnection requirement studies to be done on a group basis for homeowners and businesses that are part of the same circuit.

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