
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that energy efficiency is
2 a cornerstone of the State's transition to clean energy. It is
3 also a strong mechanism for protecting consumers from high
4 energy costs. The legislature has repeatedly found that
5 promoting greater energy efficiency is in the public's interest.

6 To ensure more efficient operation and design of commercial
7 buildings, New York City recently prohibited open-door air
8 conditioning, whereby energy is wasted by air conditioning an
9 interior space while a door or window is open to exterior space.
10 The legislature finds that this is a sensible approach for
11 building codes and standards that promote energy efficiency.

12 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit open-door air
13 conditioning in commercial buildings or structures, and to
14 commence the process of creating energy codes and standards for
15 new commercial construction that will avoid open-door air
16 conditioning in the future.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§107- Protecting against open-door air conditioning.

5 Before July 1, 2018, the state building code council shall adopt
6 applicable energy codes and standards to define allowable air
7 curtain or other retrofit technologies sufficient to protect
8 against the co-mingling of indoor and outdoor air, and prescribe
9 appropriate design and construction parameters for new
10 commercial construction to avoid open-door air conditioning
11 pursuant to section 196- ."

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§196- Prohibition on open-door air conditioning. (a)

16 After January 1, 2019, it shall be unlawful to keep open any
17 exterior door or window of a commercial building while an air
18 conditioner or central cooling system is operating to cool the
19 air surrounding the area adjacent to the open door or window,
20 except:



1 (1) As momentarily needed to enable the ingress and egress
2 of people and the delivery and shipping of goods;

3 (2) If an air curtain or other allowable retrofit device
4 is installed and protecting against the co-mingling of
5 indoor and outdoor air; or

6 (3) When an emergency situation exists that requires an
7 exterior door or window to be kept open.

8 (b) The director of business, economic development, and
9 tourism may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, relating to the
10 enforcement of this section, and may impose and collect fines or
11 penalties to cover the costs of enforcing this section. The
12 fines or penalties, if any, shall be deposited into the energy
13 security special fund established under section 201-12.8.

14 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from
15 establishing procedures and standards required to implement this
16 section."

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Sean Quinlan

Michelle E. Lown

Rich

Rich

Tommy M. Latta



H.B. NO. 1294

Report Title:

Energy Efficiency; Open-Door Air Conditioning; Prohibition;
State Building Code Council

Description:

After January 1, 2019, prohibits keeping open any exterior door or window in a commercial building while an air conditioner or central cooling system is operating to cool the air surrounding the area adjacent to the open door or window. Requires the State Building Code Council to adopt applicable codes and standards for retrofitting existing commercial buildings and designing new commercial construction to be compliant.

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