THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 361

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY STORAGE.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's dependency on imported fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars each year. A stronger local economy depends on a transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy.

The legislature also finds that alternative energy technologies have advanced significantly in recent years, leading to an explosion in new markets, jobs, and local energy sources. Due to these and other advances, Hawaii has made significant progress toward energy independence.

The legislature also finds that Hawaii is in a period of significant transition. In 2015, the legislature increased the State's clean energy goals to seventy per cent renewable energy by 2040 and to one hundred per cent renewable energy by 2045. The public utilities commission closed the State's net energy metering program and created two new distributed energy options: grid-supply and self-supply systems. Grid-supply systems allow

the customer to export excess energy onto the electrical grid. In 2016, the public utilities commission placed caps on the grid-supply system, and those caps were hit on several islands as early as August. Self-supply systems allow the customer to generate on-site electricity, but the customer may not export energy onto the grid. Most self-supply systems require a form of storage to be viable, and self-supply systems with storage can provide many useful services to the electrical grid for the benefit of the utility and all customers.

The legislature further finds that in order to continue to make meaningful progress toward Hawaii's goal of one hundred per cent renewable energy by 2045, Hawaii must invest in its electrical grid so that it can readily accommodate increasing intermittent renewable sources and continue to provide a resilient and efficient grid at a reasonable cost. In addition, the legislature finds that these investments must be engineered to support new tariffs and programs which are currently underway, including the residential time-of-use tariff approved by the commission in October of 2016, the community based renewable energy tariff, and the upcoming demand response tariffs, which will utilize customer-sited renewable

installations to provide capacity and multiple ancillary services.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a tax incentive for energy storage to support the development of energy storage for residential, commercial, and utility-scale systems.

SECTION 2. Chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§235- **Energy storage system; income tax credit.** (a) Each individual or corporate taxpayer that files an individual or corporate net income tax return for a taxable year may claim a tax credit under this section against the Hawaii state individual or corporate net income tax. The tax credit may be claimed for every eligible energy storage system that is charged by a renewable or nonrenewable energy source and installed and placed in service in the State by a taxpayer during the taxable year.

(b) The tax credit may be claimed as follows:

(1) For each residential energy storage system; provided that the federal adjusted gross income of the energy storage system user is $75,000 or less for single

filers, or $150,000 or less for joint filers, in the preceding tax year in which the credit is claimed:

(A) Thirty-three per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020;

(B) Twenty-nine per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021;

(C) Twenty-four per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022; and

(D) Eleven per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2021;

(2) For each residential energy storage system; provided that the federal adjusted gross income of the energy storage user is greater than $75,000 for single

filers, or greater than $150,000 for joint filers, in the preceding tax year in which the credit is claimed:

(A) Thirty per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020;

(B) Twenty-six per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021;

(C) Twenty-two per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022; and

(D) Ten per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2021;

(3) For each multi-family energy storage system:

(A) Thirty per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020;

(B) Twenty-six per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021;

(C) Twenty-two per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022; and

(D) Ten per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2021;

(4) For each commercial energy storage system:

(A) Thirty per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020;

(B) Twenty-six per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021;

(C) Twenty-two per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service

after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022; and

(D) Ten per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2021; and

(5) For each utility-scale system; provided that the property is co-sited and electrically connected to an eligible community-based renewable energy project as determined by the public utilities commission pursuant to section 269-27.4:

(A) Twenty-seven per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020;

(B) Twenty-three per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021;

(C) Twenty per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after

December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022; and

(D) Nine per cent of the actual cost for an energy storage system first placed in service after December 31, 2021.

Multiple owners of a single energy storage system shall be entitled to a single tax credit, and the tax credit shall be apportioned between the owners in proportion to their contribution to the cost of the energy system.

(c) In the case of a partnership, S corporation, estate, or trust, the tax credit allowable is for every eligible energy storage system that is installed and placed in service in the State by the entity. The cost upon which the tax credit is computed shall be determined at the entity level. Distribution and share of credit shall be determined pursuant to section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(d) The amount of the credit available for every eligible energy storage system shall not exceed the applicable cap amount, which is as follows:

(1) $7,000 for residential energy storage systems;

(2) $7,000 for multi-family energy storage systems;

(3) $20,000 for commercial energy storage systems; and

(4) $500,000 for utility-scale energy storage systems.

(e) For the purposes of this section:

"Actual cost" means costs related to the energy storage system under subsection (a), including accessories and installation, but not including the cost of consumer incentive premiums unrelated to the operation of the system or offered with the sale of the system and costs for which another credit is claimed under this chapter.

"Energy storage system" means any identifiable facility, equipment, apparatus, including battery, grid-interactive water heater, ice storage air conditioner, or the like, that:

(1) Receives electricity generated from another source or other sources, stores that electricity as electrical, chemical, thermal, or mechanical energy, and delivers the energy back to an electric utility or the user of the electric system at a later time;

(2) Is fixed to a residential or commercial property and electrically connected to an energy storage system user's load or generation and is connected to the electric utility system if the property is connected

to the electric utility system, or in the case of a utility-scale system, is fixed to a property and electrically connected to an eligible community-based renewable energy project;

(3) For residential and multi-family energy storage systems, has at least five kilowatt-hours of stored energy at time of purchase;

(4) For commercial energy storage systems, has at least one hundred kilowatt-hours of stored energy at time of purchase; and

(5) For utility scale systems, has at most five megawatt-hours of stored energy at time of purchase.

"First placed in service" has the same meaning as provided in title 26 Code of Federal Regulations section 1.167(a)-11(e)(1).

(f) The director of taxation shall prepare any forms that may be necessary to claim a tax credit under this section. The director may also require the taxpayer to furnish reasonable information to ascertain the validity of the claim for credit made under this section and may adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section pursuant to chapter 91.

(g) If the tax credit under this section exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess of the credit over liability may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's income tax liability in subsequent years until exhausted, unless the taxpayer elects another option pursuant to subsection (h) or (i). All claims for the tax credit under this section, including amended claims, shall be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. Failure to comply with this subsection shall constitute a waiver of the right to claim the credit.

(h) For any tax credit under this section, a taxpayer may elect to reduce the eligible credit amount by thirty per cent and if this reduced amount exceeds the amount of income tax payment due from the taxpayer, the excess of the credit amount over payments due shall be refunded to the taxpayer; provided that tax credit amounts properly claimed by a taxpayer who has no income tax liability shall be paid to the taxpayer; and provided further that no refund on account of the tax credit allowed by this section shall be made for amounts less than $1.

The election required by this subsection shall be made in a manner prescribed by the director of taxation on the taxpayer's return for the taxable year in which the storage energy system is installed and first placed in service. An election once made is irrevocable.

(i) In lieu of subsection (h), for any tax credit under this section, an individual taxpayer may elect to have any excess of the credit over payments due refunded to the taxpayer, without discount, if:

(1) All of the taxpayer's income is exempt from taxation under section 235-7(a)(2) or (3); or

(2) The taxpayer's adjusted gross income is $20,000 or less for single filers, or $40,000 or less for joint filers;

provided that tax credits properly claimed by a taxpayer who has no income tax liability shall be paid to the taxpayer; and provided further that no refund on account of the tax credit allowed by this section shall be made for amounts less than $1.

Spouses who do not file a joint tax return shall only be entitled to make this election to the extent that they would

have been entitled to make this election had they filed a joint tax return.

The election required by this subsection shall be made in a manner prescribed by the director of taxation on the taxpayer's return for the taxable year in which the storage energy system is installed and first placed in service. An election once made is irrevocable."

SECTION 3. Section 235-12.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) For the purposes of this section:

"Actual cost" means costs related to the renewable energy technology systems under subsection (a), including accessories and installation, but not including the cost of consumer incentive premiums unrelated to the operation of the system or offered with the sale of the system and costs for which another credit is claimed under this chapter. "Actual cost" does not include costs related to energy storage systems, as defined in section 235- .

"First placed in service" has the same meaning as provided in title 26 Code of Federal Regulations section 1.167(a)-11(e)(1).

"Household use" means any use to which heated water is commonly put in a residential setting, including commercial application of those uses.

"Renewable energy technology system" means a new system that captures and converts a renewable source of energy, such as solar or wind energy, into:

(1) A usable source of thermal or mechanical energy;

(2) Electricity; or

(3) Fuel.

"Solar or wind energy system" means any identifiable facility, equipment, apparatus, or the like that converts solar or wind energy to useful thermal or electrical energy for heating, cooling, or reducing the use of other types of energy that are dependent upon fossil fuel for their generation."

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval, and shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

INTRODUCED BY:

S.B. NO. 361

Report Title:
Energy Storage System Tax Credit

Description:
Establishes an income tax credit for taxpayers who purchase and install eligible energy storage systems. The amount of credit depends on type of system installed, filing status, and federal AGI of taxpayer. Excess credit may carry-over to subsequent tax years or is refundable under certain conditions. Applies to taxable years after 12/31/2017. Amends reusable energy technologies tax credit to harmonize definitions.

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