
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the development of
2 residential rooftop solar energy systems is necessary to meet
3 the present and future energy needs and renewable energy goals
4 of the State. These systems require direct access to sunlight
5 to operate efficiently and be cost-effective.

6 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the counties to
7 enact ordinances to address the issue of shade cast by
8 vegetation onto solar energy devices.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
10 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
11 read as follows:

12 "§46- County authority to require trimming of
13 vegetation blocking a solar energy device. The governing body
14 of a county may require, by ordinance, the trimming of
15 vegetation that blocks solar radiation from a solar energy
16 device, as defined under section 196-7, on a neighboring
17 property. The ordinance may include but is not limited to a



1 designation of responsibility for the costs of the trimming.
2 The ordinance shall not require the trimming of vegetation if
3 the owner or occupant of the property on which the vegetation is
4 located plants the vegetation before the installation of the
5 solar energy device."

6 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Solar Energy Device; Trimming Vegetation; Ordinance; Counties

Description:

Permits the governing body of a county to require, by ordinance, the trimming of vegetation that blocks solar radiation from a solar energy device on a neighboring property. Authorizes the ordinance to include a designation of responsibility for the cost of trimming. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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