
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the 1990s, the
2 federal government began to get involved in the research and
3 development of solar energy and developed grants and tax
4 incentives for homeowners who installed and used solar systems.
5 Since then, manufacturing costs for solar panels have decreased
6 and efficiency has dramatically increased, and the past ten
7 years have seen an increasing number of solar panels being and
8 installed in the United States each year. Some appliances, such
9 as solar water heaters, use solar power to reduce reliance upon
10 traditional heating sources, such as oil, electricity, and
11 natural gas in order to meet state energy goals. In 2008, the
12 legislature passed Act 204, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, known
13 as the "solar water heater mandate," for the benefit of
14 consumers, and required that new homes utilize solar water
15 heating except in narrowly limited circumstances, thereby
16 potentially increasing the use of solar panels in the State.



1 The legislature further finds that solar panels have a life
2 expectancy of up to thirty years, and panels installed in the
3 1990s will start requiring disposal in the very near future.
4 After about thirty years, many crystalline silicon solar panels
5 will begin having significant dips in energy production and will
6 need to be disposed of, recycled, or replaced. Heavy metals
7 such as cadmium and lead are found in solar cells, which can
8 harm the natural environment if not recycled or disposed of
9 properly. Solar panels that are disposed of carelessly may end
10 up in large landfills. The legislature also finds that over
11 time some of the rare elements in photovoltaic cells like
12 gallium and indium are being depleted from the environment and
13 recovery of these elements would conserve the limited amount
14 available on earth for continued use in solar panels and other
15 products. A 2016 study by the International Renewable Agency
16 estimated that \$15,000,000,000 could be recovered by 2050 from
17 recycling solar modules.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii state
19 energy office, in consultation with the department of health, to
20 conduct a comprehensive study to determine best practices for



1 disposal and recycling of discarded clean energy products in the
2 State.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii state energy office, in
4 consultation with the department of health, shall conduct a
5 comprehensive study to determine the best practices for disposal
6 and recycling of discarded clean energy products in the State.

7 (b) The study shall address:

- 8 (1) The amount of aging photovoltaic and solar water
9 heater panels in the State that will need to be
10 disposed or recycled;
- 11 (2) Other types of clean energy materials expected to be
12 discarded in Hawaii in significant quantities,
13 including glass, frames, wiring, inverters, and
14 batteries;
- 15 (3) The type and chemical composition of those clean
16 energy materials;
- 17 (4) Best practices for collection, disposal, and recycling
18 of those clean energy materials;
- 19 (5) Whether a fee should be charged for disposal or
20 recycling of those clean energy materials; and



1 (6) Any other issues that the Hawaii state energy office
 2 and the department of health consider appropriate for
 3 management, recycling, and disposal of those clean
 4 energy materials.

5 SECTION 3. The Hawaii state energy office shall submit an
 6 interim report on the progress of the study, including findings,
 7 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
 8 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 9 the regular session of 2021. The Hawaii state energy office
 10 shall submit a final report of the study, including findings,
 11 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
 12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 13 the regular session of 2022.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
 17 conduct the study pursuant to this Act.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 19 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
 20 this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Solar Energy; Solar Panels; Photovoltaic Waste Disposal; Clean Energy Products; State Energy Office; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office, in consultation with DOH, to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the best practices for disposal and recycling of discarded clean energy products in the State. Requires an interim report and a final report to the legislature. Appropriates funds for study. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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