

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BUILDING CODES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that certain
2 refrigerants, including hydrofluorocarbons, are potent
3 greenhouse gases that can have an immense impact on global
4 warming. The legislature further finds that the United States
5 Congress passed the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of
6 2020 that mandates an eighty-five per cent phasedown in
7 hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants. The legislature further finds
8 that the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons includes restricting
9 the use of hydrofluorocarbons in certain applications and
10 directing the transition to hydrofluorocarbon substitutes. This
11 phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons is expected to reduce
12 hydrofluorocarbon emissions by approximately 2.4 billion metric
13 tons of carbon dioxide by 2035 and avoid up to a one-half degree
14 Celsius global temperature increase by 2100.

15 The legislature further finds that building codes across
16 the country must be updated to comply with the American
17 Innovation and Manufacturing Act and the Environmental



1 Protection Agency rules and regulations concerning the
2 transition to hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant alternatives. The
3 building code updates will provide the certainty that the
4 manufacturing industry needs to comply with the federal
5 regulations and ensure that the transition to alternate
6 refrigerants is safe and efficient.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to clarify that no
8 state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a
9 substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection
10 Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in
11 compliance with the latest safety standards.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§107- Refrigerant use. No provision of the Hawaii
16 state building codes or any county building code shall prohibit
17 or otherwise limit the use of a refrigerant designated as
18 acceptable for use pursuant to title 42 United States Code
19 section 7671k; provided that any equipment containing the
20 refrigerant shall be listed and installed in accordance with any



1 applicable safety standards and use conditions imposed for that
2 equipment or refrigerant."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Francis R. George*



S.B. NO. 2753

Report Title:

State Building Codes; County Building Codes; Refrigerants; Safe Alternatives

Description:

Clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in compliance with the latest safety standards.

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