
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, which 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 of 2020 and the Environmental



1 Protection Agency's 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 federal regulations
5 and ensure that the transition to alternate refrigerants is safe
6 and efficient.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Clarify that no state or county building code shall
9 prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed
10 by the Environmental Protection Agency if the
11 applicable equipment is listed and installed in
12 compliance with any applicable safety standards and
13 use conditions; and
- 14 (2) Require the state building code council, when
15 adopting, amending, or updating the Hawaii state
16 building codes, to establish codes and standards that
17 are consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse
18 gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons and
19 not in conflict with federal law.



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

4 "§107- Refrigerant use. No provision of the Hawaii
5 state building codes or any county building code shall prohibit
6 or otherwise limit the use of a refrigerant designated as
7 acceptable for use pursuant to title 42 United States Code
8 section 7671k; provided that any equipment containing the
9 refrigerant shall be listed and installed in accordance with any
10 applicable safety standards and use conditions imposed for that
11 equipment or refrigerant.

12 §107- Hawaii state building codes; hydrofluorocarbons;
13 update. When adopting, amending, or updating the codes and
14 standards identified in section 107-25, the council shall
15 establish codes and standards that are:

- 16 (1) Consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas
17 emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons; and
18 (2) Not in conflict with federal law."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

State Building Codes; County Building Codes; Refrigerants; Safe Alternatives; Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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. Requires the State Building Code Council, when it adopts, amends, or updates the Hawaii State Building Codes, to establish codes and standards that are consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons and not in conflict with federal law. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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