
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 (the
2 General Appropriations Act of 2023), is amended by adding to
3 part III a new section to be appropriately designated and to
4 read as follows:

5 "SECTION . Provided that out of the general fund
6 appropriation for the solar energy storage loan program for the
7 Hawaii green infrastructure authority (BED138), the sum of
8 \$50,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 shall be deposited into the clean energy and
10 energy efficiency revolving loan fund, section 196-65.5, to be
11 expended by the authority to make solar and storage loans;
12 provided further that the moneys provided in this section shall
13 not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
14 appropriation is made; and provided further that any moneys that
15 remain unencumbered on June 30, 2025, shall lapse on that date."


16 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.
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H.B. NO. 2372

1 SECTION 3. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
2 on June 29, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST
JAN 22 2024

H.B. NO. 2372

Report Title:

Solar Energy Storage Loan Program; Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

Description:

Clarifies part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Business, Economic Development and Tourism

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

PURPOSE: To add a proviso to the General Appropriations Act of 2023 as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

To clarify that the \$50,000,000 in general funds that was appropriated in the 2023 budget for the purpose of providing, in whole or in part, solar and storage loans is to be deposited into and expended from the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, for which the Revolving Fund was established.

MEANS: Add a new section to part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 (the General Appropriations Act of 2023).

JUSTIFICATION: Approximately 44 percent of Hawaii's families are facing disproportionate financial burdens with rising inflation and unprecedented spikes in electricity costs, straining their already tight household budgets. Based on the Federal Reserve Bank's unbanked/underbanked metric, an estimated 75,000 rooftops may not qualify for traditional financing, representing a \$3.75 billion financing gap. The additional loan capital in the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, which allows the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (Authority) to finance energy storage systems, will be a game-changer, helping underserved ratepayers reduce their energy burden while facilitating an equitable transition to renewable energy and enhancing resiliency and grid stability.

Impact on the public: Depositing \$50,000,000 into the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, will allow the Authority to re-lend and re-invest in solar plus storage systems for additional families as loans are repaid, leveraging the funds multiple times.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
None.

GENERAL FUND: \$50,000,000.
OTHER FUNDS: None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: BED-138.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 29, 2024.