
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the rising cost of
2 construction materials, along with supply chain disruptions and
3 potential increases in tariffs, has created a significant
4 barrier to the timely rebuilding of homes in Hawaii. These
5 challenges are compounded by the skyrocketing price of
6 construction--which now approaches \$1,000 per square foot--
7 placing an undue financial burden on homeowners attempting to
8 rebuild.

9 The legislature acknowledges the critical need to alleviate
10 the financial strain on homeowners and accelerate the rebuilding
11 process in light of recent catastrophic events, including the
12 devastating Los Angeles fires in January 2025. These disasters
13 highlight the urgency of ensuring that rebuilding efforts
14 proceed unimpeded, especially as global competition for
15 construction materials intensifies in the coming years. Failure
16 to act risks compounding the financial hardships faced by



1 residents and could result in prolonged displacement and
2 community destabilization.

3 The legislature recognizes the unique and urgent rebuilding
4 challenges faced by residents in federally declared disaster
5 areas within the State that were in existence as of August 8,
6 2023. These areas, severely impacted by disasters, require
7 expedited and cost-effective rebuilding efforts to restore
8 affected communities. To address these challenges, it is
9 critical to provide financial relief to homeowners and
10 businesses rebuilding in these federally declared disaster
11 areas.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to exempt purchases
13 of construction rebuilding materials from the general excise
14 tax, thereby alleviating financial hardships, ensuring community
15 resilience, and supporting the timely reconstruction of affected
16 properties.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 **"§237- Exemption for disaster construction rebuilding**
21 **materials.** (a) There shall be exempted from, and excluded from



1 the measures of, the tax imposed by this chapter the sales, and
2 the gross proceeds of all sales, of construction rebuilding
3 materials purchased for the rebuilding or reconstruction of
4 residential or commercial properties located in federally
5 declared disaster areas in this State; provided that this
6 exemption shall apply only to construction rebuilding materials
7 sold and purchased between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028.

8 (b) This section shall not apply to:

9 (1) Construction materials used for new development or
10 construction unrelated to rebuilding or reconstruction
11 in federally declared disaster areas; or

12 (2) Construction materials purchased for use outside of
13 the State;

14 provided that where construction rebuilding materials are used
15 partly for rebuilding or reconstruction and partly for other
16 purposes, the proportion used for each purpose shall be
17 determined by the department upon the basis of value.

18 (c) A third party shall issue the certification for
19 projects qualifying for the exemption established by this
20 section.

21 (d) For the purposes of this section:



1 "Construction rebuilding materials" means lumber, steel,
2 concrete, roofing materials, plumbing fixtures, electrical
3 systems, and other materials commonly used in residential or
4 commercial construction.

5 "Federally declared disaster area" means any area in the
6 State for which a federal disaster declaration has been made
7 pursuant to federal law; provided that the disaster declaration
8 existed as of August 8, 2023."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2026,
11 and shall be repealed on December 31, 2028.



Report Title:

GET; Exemption; Construction Rebuilding Materials;
Reconstruction; Disaster Recovery; Federally Declared Disaster
Areas; Third Party Certification Issuance

Description:

Exempts from the state general excise tax the sales and gross proceeds from sales of construction rebuilding materials for residential and commercial properties in federally declared disaster areas. Applies only to rebuilding materials purchased between 7/1/2025 and 12/31/2028. Requires a third party to issue the certification for projects qualifying for the exemption for disaster construction rebuilding materials. Sunsets on 12/31/2028. Effective 1/1/2026. (SD1)

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