
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature is in support of renewable
2 energy programs to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels
3 and to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, while
4 increasing energy security by minimizing the impacts of supply
5 disruptions and pricing volatility.

6 The legislature finds that the initial high cost to
7 purchase renewable energy systems is a barrier to the
8 installation and utilization of these types of technologies.
9 The legislature also finds that the renewable energy income tax
10 credit, the high cost of electricity, and other market based
11 incentives may not be sufficient to motivate, in particular, the
12 usage of photovoltaic systems throughout Hawaii.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
14 public utilities commission to establish a ratepayer based
15 photovoltaic rebate program after an assessment of the benefits
16 of such a program in promoting the use of this renewable energy



1 technology to utility customers within electric utility service
2 areas.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 **"§269- Photovoltaic rebate program; establishment. (a)**

7 Upon assessing the beneficial impacts to the Hawaii ratepayers,
8 a photovoltaic rebate program may be established by the public
9 utilities commission. The commission shall coordinate with the
10 Hawaiian Electric Company, Hawaii Electric Light Company, Maui
11 Electric Company, and Kauai Island Utility Cooperative to offer
12 a rebate to grid-connected customers within each respective
13 utility service area.

14 (b) To qualify for the photovoltaic rebate program,
15 applicants shall comply with the following requirements and any
16 other additional requirements imposed by the public utilities
17 commission:

- 18 (1) Electric service is provided to the applicant by
19 Hawaiian Electric Company, Hawaii Electric Light
20 Company, Maui Electric Company, or Kauai Island
21 Utility Cooperative;



1 (2) The photovoltaic energy system shall be installed by
2 an appropriately licensed contractor;

3 (3) The system being installed shall be new, unused, and
4 meet hardware and installation standards defined by
5 the commission;

6 (4) The system being installed shall have a five-year
7 warranty provided by the system retailer, with system
8 components meeting national standards; and

9 (5) The system shall be installed with a performance
10 meter.

11 (c) The public utilities commission, by rule or order,
12 shall carry out the purposes of this section and may adjust the
13 rebate amount and caps specified in this section to effectuate
14 the purposes of this section and chapter.

15 (d) Participants in the photovoltaic rebate program shall
16 not be eligible for the renewable energy technologies income tax
17 credit under section 235-12.5."

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and
20 shall be repealed on June 30, 2013.



Report Title:

Photovoltaic Rebate Program; Renewable Energy

Description:

Authorizes the public utilities commission, after first assessing beneficial impacts, to establish a photovoltaic rebate program to all grid-connected residential, community-center, and small business utility customers within electric utility service areas. (HD1)

