HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO.

1520
H.D. 2
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that up-front costs of

2 renewable energy systems and energy efficient devices are a key

3 barrier preventing many Hawaii residents and businesses from

4 purchasing such systems and devices. Further, existing clean

5 energy incentive programs inadequately serve electric utility

6 company customers who are renters and or who lack the resources

7 to invest in renewable energy or energy efficiency. The

8 legislature finds that it is in the public interest to make

9 cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency options

10 more accessible to residents and businesses statewide in an

11 equitable way.

12   The purpose of this Act is to direct the public utilities

13 commission to investigate the viability of an on-bill financing

14 program to allow electric utility company customers to finance

15 purchases of renewable energy systems or energy efficient

16 devices through the energy savings provided by such systems or

17 devices.

1   SECTION 2.   Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

2   amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately

3   designated and to read as follows:

4   "§269-   On-bill financing for energy efficiency and

5   renewable energy.   (a)   The public utilities commission shall

6   investigate an on-bill financing program that would allow an

7   electric utility company customer to purchase or otherwise

8   acquire a renewable energy system or energy efficient device, as

9   determined by the public utilities commission, by providing for

10   billing and payment of such a system or device through an

11   assessment on the electric utility company customer's

12   electricity bill.

13   (b)   In investigating an on-bill financing program, the

14   public utilities commission may consider:

15   (1)   The costs and benefits associated with the

16   establishment and administration of the program;

17   (2)   The ability of the program to effectively provide

18   lifecycle cost savings to participating electric

19   utility company customers;

20   (3)   The ability of the program to make renewable energy

21   and energy efficiency more accessible to the rental

22   market and other underserved markets;

1   (4) Methods to structure the program to ensure that any

2   public benefits fee funds are spent cost-effectively

3   and in compliance with applicable statutes;

4   (5) The use of non-ratepayer funds or private capital to

5   provide financing for renewable energy systems or

6   energy efficient devices acquired through the program;

7   (6) Reasonable penalties, which may include fines and

8   disconnection of utility services, for nonpayment of

9   on-bill financing costs;

10   (7) The ability of an electric utility company to recover

11   costs incurred due to the program; and

12   (8) Other issues the public utilities commission deems

13   appropriate.

14   (c) If on-bill financing is determined by the public

15 utilities commission to be viable, the public utilities

16 commission may implement an on-bill financing program by

17 decision and order or by rules pursuant to chapter 91.

18   SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19   SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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Report Title:
Renewable Energy; Energy Efficiency; Public Utilities Commission

Description:
Directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an On-bill Financing Program (Program) for residential electric utility customers to finance purchases of energy efficient or renewable energy devices and systems through their regular electric utility bills. Authorizes PUC to implement a Program by decision and order or by rules if the program is found to be viable. Effective July 1, 2011. (HB1520 CD1)

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HB1520 CD1 HMS 2011-3992