A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC-READY NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

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

1   SECTION 1. As the cost of photovoltaic systems continues

2 to fall, the installation of residential photovoltaic systems

3 will become increasingly cost effective. The legislature finds,

4 however, that installation of these systems on existing homes

5 can be hindered by design features that were incorporated at the

6 time of initial construction that limit the physical space

7 available for photovoltaic systems and related equipment. A

8 policy requiring all new single-family residential construction

9 to incorporate design elements and minimal equipment

10 installation to make the structure photovoltaic-ready at the

11 time of initial construction will facilitate widespread adoption

12 of photovoltaic systems in the future.

13   The purpose of this Act is to optimize future gains from

14 solar technology adoption. Photovoltaic-ready requirements will

15 ensure that new residential construction is designed to reap the

16 maximum benefits of future solar technology installations, thus

17 reducing potential cost-recoupment periods after solar

18 technologies are installed. Widespread adoption of solar

1 technologies on residential buildings will result in reduced

2 energy demand on the grid and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

3 Individuals who choose to install solar technologies will

4 benefit from reduced electricity costs; that savings can be

5 substantial depending on fossil fuel prices. This Act will also

6 help to develop a market for solar technology construction and

7 design and increase awareness of solar technologies in the

8 construction industry for homeowners in general. These are

9 crucial factors in addressing the barriers to solar adoption.

10   SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated

12 and to read as follows:

13   "§196-   **Photovoltaic-ready new residential construction.**

14 (a) Effective January 1, 2014, no building permit shall be

15 issued for a new single-family dwelling that does not include:

16   (1) Provisions for future photovoltaic accommodation,

17   including:

18   (A) A conduit from the ridge cap to the subpanel for

19   the residential dwelling electrical distribution

20   system; and

1   (B)   Adequate sizing of the subpanel to accommodate

2   the residential load plus any future photovoltaic

3   system that may be installed; and

4   (2)   Blueprints and labeling that detail photovoltaic

5   system accommodations and connections.

6   (b)   Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from

7   establishing procedures and standards required to implement this

8   section.

9   (c)   Nothing in this section shall preclude any person from

10 participating in any utility demand-side management program or

11 energy efficiency program in conjunction with the public

12 benefits fee established by part VII, chapter 269."

13   SECTION 3.   New statutory material is underscored.

14   SECTION 4.   This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

Report Title:
Photovoltaic-Ready New Residential Homes

Description:
Requires that new single-family residential construction
incorporate design elements and minimum equipment installation
at the time of construction to facilitate the future adoption of
a photovoltaic system.   (SD1)

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