
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 196-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§196-6.5 Solar water heater system required for new
4 single-family residential construction. (a) On or after
5 January 1, 2010, no building permit shall be issued for a new
6 single-family dwelling that does not include a solar water
7 heater system that meets the standards established pursuant to
8 section 269-44, unless the coordinator approves a variance. A
9 variance application shall only be accepted if submitted by an
10 architect or mechanical engineer licensed under chapter 464, who
11 attests that:

- 12 (1) Installation is impracticable due to poor solar
13 resource;
- 14 (2) Installation is cost-prohibitive based upon a life
15 cycle cost-benefit analysis that incorporates the
16 average residential utility bill and the cost of the
17 new solar water heater system with a life cycle that
18 does not exceed fifteen years;



1 (3) A renewable energy technology system [~~as defined in~~
2 ~~section 235-12.5,~~] is substituted for use as the
3 primary energy source for heating water; or

4 (4) A demand water heater device approved by Underwriters
5 Laboratories, Inc., is installed; provided that at
6 least one other gas appliance is installed in the
7 dwelling. For the purposes of this paragraph, "demand
8 water heater" means a gas-tankless instantaneous water
9 heater that provides hot water only as it is needed.

10 (b) A request for a variance shall be submitted to the
11 coordinator on an application prescribed by the coordinator and
12 shall include a description of the location of the property and
13 justification for the approval of a variance using the criteria
14 established in subsection (a). A variance shall be deemed
15 approved if not denied within thirty working days after receipt
16 of the variance application. The coordinator shall publicize:

17 (1) All applications for a variance within seven days
18 after receipt of the variance application; and

19 (2) The disposition of all applications for a variance
20 within seven days of the determination of the variance
21 application.



1 (c) The director of business, economic development, and
2 tourism may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to impose and
3 collect fees to cover the costs of administering variances under
4 this section. The fees, if any, shall be deposited into the
5 energy security special fund established under section 201-12.8.

6 (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from
7 establishing procedures and standards required to implement this
8 section.

9 (e) Nothing in this section shall preclude participation
10 in any utility demand-side management program or public benefits
11 fee program under part VII of chapter 269.

12 (f) As used in this section, "renewable energy technology
13 system" means a new system that captures and converts a
14 renewable source of energy, such as solar or wind energy, into:

15 (1) A usable source of thermal or mechanical energy;

16 (2) Electricity; or

17 (3) Fuel."

18 SECTION 2. Section 235-12.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§235-12.5 Renewable energy technologies; income tax
21 credit. (a) When the requirements of subsection [~~d~~] (c) are



1 met, each individual or corporate taxpayer that files an
2 individual or corporate net income tax return for a taxable year
3 may claim a tax credit under this section against the Hawaii
4 state individual or corporate net income tax. [~~The tax credit~~
5 ~~may be claimed for every eligible renewable energy technology~~
6 ~~system that is installed and placed in service in the State by a~~
7 ~~taxpayer during the taxable year.~~] The tax credit may be
8 claimed as follows:

- 9 (1) For each solar energy [~~system~~] property that is used
10 exclusively to heat water and is installed and first
11 placed in service in the State by a taxpayer during
12 the taxable year: thirty-five per cent of the [~~actual~~
13 ~~cost or the cap amount determined in subsection (b),~~
14 ~~whichever is less; or~~] basis up to the applicable cap
15 amount, which is determined as follows:
- 16 (A) \$2,250 per solar energy property for single-
17 family residential property;
- 18 (B) \$350 per unit per solar energy property for
19 multi-family residential property; and
- 20 (C) \$250,000 per solar energy property for commercial
21 property;



1 (2) For each solar energy property that is used primarily
2 to generate electricity and is installed and first
3 placed in service in the State by a taxpayer during
4 the taxable year: *

5 (A) Twenty-five per cent of the basis for solar
6 energy property first placed in service after
7 December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2019, up
8 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
9 as follows:

10 (i) \$5,000 per solar energy property for single-
11 family residential property; provided that
12 if all or a portion of the solar energy
13 property is used to fulfill the substitute
14 renewable energy technology requirement
15 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
16 credit shall be reduced by twenty-five per
17 cent of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is
18 less;

19 (ii) \$350 per unit per solar energy property for
20 multi-family residential property; and



- 1 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
- 2 commercial property;
- 3 (B) Twenty per cent of the basis for solar energy
- 4 property first placed in service after
- 5 December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020, up
- 6 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
- 7 as follows:
- 8 (i) \$5,000 per solar energy property for single-
- 9 family residential property; provided that
- 10 if all or a portion of the solar energy
- 11 property is used to fulfill the substitute
- 12 renewable energy technology requirement
- 13 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
- 14 credit shall be reduced by twenty per cent
- 15 of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is less;
- 16 (ii) \$350 per unit per solar energy property for
- 17 multi-family residential property; and
- 18 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
- 19 commercial property; and
- 20 (C) Fifteen per cent of the basis for solar energy
- 21 property first placed in service after



1 December 31, 2022, up to the applicable cap
2 amount, which is determined as follows:

3 (i) \$5,000 per solar energy property for single-
4 family residential property; provided that
5 if all or a portion of the solar energy
6 property is used to fulfill the substitute
7 renewable energy technology requirement
8 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
9 credit shall be reduced by fifteen per cent
10 of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is less;

11 (ii) \$350 per unit per solar energy property for
12 multi-family residential property; and

13 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
14 commercial property;

15 (3) For each solar energy property that is used primarily
16 to generate electricity and is installed and first
17 placed in service in the State by a taxpayer during
18 the taxable year; provided that the solar energy
19 property is grid-connected and incorporates an energy
20 storage property:



1 (A) Twenty-five per cent of the basis for solar
2 energy property first placed in service after
3 December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2019, up
4 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
5 as follows:

6 (i) \$10,000 per solar energy property for
7 single-family residential property; provided
8 that if all or a portion of the solar energy
9 property is used to fulfill the substitute
10 renewable energy technology requirement
11 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
12 credit shall be reduced by twenty-five per
13 cent of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is
14 less;

15 (ii) \$700 per unit per solar energy property for
16 multi-family residential property; and

17 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
18 commercial property;

19 (B) Twenty per cent of the basis for solar energy
20 property first placed in service after
21 December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020, up



1 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
2 as follows:

3 (i) \$10,000 per solar energy property for
4 single-family residential property; provided
5 that if all or a portion of the solar energy
6 property is used to fulfill the substitute
7 renewable energy technology requirement
8 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
9 credit shall be reduced by twenty per cent
10 of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is less;

11 (ii) \$700 per unit per solar energy property for
12 multi-family residential property; and

13 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
14 commercial property; and

15 (C) Fifteen per cent of the basis for solar energy
16 property first placed in service after
17 December 31, 2022, up to the applicable cap
18 amount, which is determined as follows:

19 (i) \$10,000 per solar energy property for
20 single-family residential property; provided
21 that if all or a portion of the solar energy



1 property is used to fulfill the substitute
2 renewable energy technology requirement
3 pursuant to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the
4 credit shall be reduced by fifteen per cent
5 of the basis or \$2,250, whichever is less;

6 (ii) \$700 per unit per solar energy property for
7 multi-family residential property; and

8 (iii) \$500,000 per solar energy property for
9 commercial property;

10 (4) For each energy storage property that is installed and
11 first placed in service in the State by a taxpayer
12 during the taxable year, if the cost of the energy
13 storage property is not also included in the basis of
14 a solar or wind energy property under subsection (a):

15 (A) Twenty-five per cent of the basis for energy
16 storage property first placed in service after
17 December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2019, up
18 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
19 as follows:

20 (i) \$10,000 per energy storage property for
21 single-family residential property;



- 1 (ii) \$700 per unit per energy storage property
2 for multi-family residential property; and
3 (iii) \$500,000 per energy storage property for
4 commercial property;

5 (B) Twenty per cent of the basis for energy storage
6 property first placed in service after
7 December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2020, up
8 to the applicable cap amount, which is determined
9 as follows:

10 (i) \$10,000 per energy storage property for
11 single-family residential property;

- 12 (ii) \$700 per unit per energy storage property
13 for multi-family residential property; and
14 (iii) \$500,000 per energy storage property for
15 commercial property; and

16 (C) Fifteen per cent of the basis for energy storage
17 property first placed in service after
18 December 31, 2022, up to the applicable cap
19 amount, which is determined as follows:

20 (i) \$10,000 per energy storage property for
21 single-family residential property;



- 1 (ii) \$700 per unit per energy storage property
2 for multi-family residential property; and
3 (iii) \$500,000 per energy storage property for
4 commercial property; and

5 ~~[(2)]~~ (5) For each ~~[wind-powered]~~ wind energy ~~[system+]~~
6 property: twenty per cent of the ~~[actual cost or the~~
7 ~~cap amount determined in subsection (b),]~~ basis or
8 \$ _____, whichever is less ~~[+]~~.

9 ~~[provided that multiple]~~ Multiple owners of a single ~~[system]~~
10 property shall be entitled to a single tax credit ~~[+]~~, and
11 ~~[provided further that]~~ the tax credit shall be apportioned
12 between the owners in proportion to their contribution to the
13 cost of the ~~[system-]~~ property.

14 In the case of a partnership, S corporation, estate, or
15 trust, the tax credit allowable is for every eligible ~~[renewable~~
16 ~~energy technology system]~~ solar or wind energy property that is
17 installed and placed in service in the State by the entity. The
18 cost upon which the tax credit is computed shall be determined
19 at the entity level. Distribution and share of credit shall be
20 determined pursuant to section ~~[235-110.7(a)-]~~ 704(b) of the
21 Internal Revenue Code.



1 ~~[(b) The amount of credit allowed for each eligible~~
2 ~~renewable energy technology system shall not exceed the~~
3 ~~applicable cap amount, which is determined as follows:~~

4 ~~(1) If the primary purpose of the solar energy system is~~
5 ~~to use energy from the sun to heat water for household~~
6 ~~use, then the cap amounts shall be:~~

7 ~~(A) \$2,250 per system for single family residential~~
8 ~~property;~~

9 ~~(B) \$350 per unit per system for multi-family~~
10 ~~residential property; and~~

11 ~~(C) \$250,000 per system for commercial property;~~

12 ~~(2) For all other solar energy systems, the cap amounts~~
13 ~~shall be:~~

14 ~~(A) \$5,000 per system for single family residential~~
15 ~~property; provided that if all or a portion of~~
16 ~~the system is used to fulfill the substitute~~
17 ~~renewable energy technology requirement pursuant~~
18 ~~to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the credit shall be~~
19 ~~reduced by thirty five per cent of the actual~~
20 ~~system cost or \$2,250, whichever is less;~~



1 ~~(B) \$350 per unit per system for multi-family~~
2 ~~residential property; and~~

3 ~~(C) \$500,000 per system for commercial property; and~~

4 ~~(3) For all wind-powered energy systems, the cap amounts~~
5 ~~shall be:~~

6 ~~(A) \$1,500 per system for single-family residential~~
7 ~~property; provided that if all or a portion of~~
8 ~~the system is used to fulfill the substitute~~
9 ~~renewable energy technology requirement pursuant~~
10 ~~to section 196-6.5(a)(3), the credit shall be~~
11 ~~reduced by twenty per cent of the actual system~~
12 ~~cost or \$1,500, whichever is less;~~

13 ~~(B) \$200 per unit per system for multi-family~~
14 ~~residential property; and~~

15 ~~(C) \$500,000 per system for commercial property.~~

16 ~~(e)] (b) For the purposes of this section:~~

17 ~~["Actual cost" means costs related to the renewable energy~~
18 ~~technology systems under subsection (a), including accessories~~
19 ~~and installation, but not including the cost of consumer~~
20 ~~incentive premiums unrelated to the operation of the system or~~



1 ~~offered with the sale of the system and costs for which another~~
2 ~~credit is claimed under this chapter.~~

3 ~~"Household use" means any use to which heated water is~~
4 ~~commonly put in a residential setting, including commercial~~
5 ~~application of these uses.~~

6 ~~"Renewable energy technology system" means a new system~~
7 ~~that captures and converts a renewable source of energy, such as~~
8 ~~solar or wind energy, into:~~

- 9 ~~(1) A usable source of thermal or mechanical energy;~~
10 ~~(2) Electricity; or~~
11 ~~(3) Fuel.]~~

12 "Basis" means costs related to the solar energy, wind
13 energy, or energy storage property under subsection (a),
14 including accessories, energy storage, and installation, but
15 does not include the cost of consumer incentive premiums
16 unrelated to the operation of the energy property or offered
17 with the sale of the energy property and costs for which another
18 credit is claimed under this chapter. Any cost incurred and paid
19 for the repair, construction, or reconstruction of a structure in
20 conjunction with the installation and placing in service of solar
21 or wind energy property, such as the reroofing of single-family



1 residential property, multi-family residential property, or
2 commercial property, shall not constitute a part of the basis for
3 the purpose of this section; provided that costs incurred for the
4 physical support of the solar or wind energy property, such as
5 racking and mounting equipment and costs incurred to seal or
6 otherwise return a roof to its pre-installation condition shall
7 constitute part of the basis for the purposes of this section.

8 The basis used under this section shall be consistent with
9 the use of basis in section 25D or section 48 of the Internal
10 Revenue Code.

11 "Energy storage property" means any identifiable facility,
12 equipment, or apparatus, including battery, grid-interactive
13 water heater, ice storage air-conditioner, or the like, that is
14 permanently fixed to a site and electrically connected to a site
15 distribution panel by means of an installed wiring, and that
16 receives electricity generated from various sources, stores that
17 electricity as electrical, chemical, thermal, or mechanical
18 energy, and delivers the energy back to an electric utility or
19 the user of the electric system at a later time.

20 "First placed in service" has the same meaning as in 26
21 Code of Federal Regulations 1.167(a)-11(e)(1).



1 "Grid-connected" means that the individual or corporate
2 taxpayer has obtained an approved interconnection agreement from
3 an electric utility for the solar energy property.

4 "Solar or wind energy [~~system~~] property" means any
5 identifiable facility, equipment, apparatus, or the like that
6 converts solar or wind energy to useful thermal or electrical
7 energy for heating, cooling, or reducing the use of other types
8 of energy that are dependent upon fossil fuel for their
9 generation~~[-]~~; provided that:

10 (1) The construction, reconstruction, or erection of the
11 solar or wind energy property is completed by the
12 taxpayer; or

13 (2) The solar or wind energy property is acquired by the
14 taxpayer if the original use of the solar or wind
15 energy property commences with the taxpayer.

16 [~~d~~] (c) For taxable years beginning after December 31,
17 2005, the dollar amount of any utility rebate shall be deducted
18 from the [~~cost~~] basis of the qualifying [~~system~~] property and
19 its installation before applying the state tax credit.

20 [~~e~~] (d) The director of taxation shall prepare any forms
21 that may be necessary to claim a tax credit under this section,



1 including forms identifying the technology type of each tax
2 credit claimed under this section[, ~~whether for solar or wind~~].
3 The director may also require the taxpayer to furnish reasonable
4 information to ascertain the validity of the claim for credit
5 made under this section and may adopt rules necessary to
6 effectuate the purposes of this section pursuant to chapter 91.

7 [~~(f)~~] (e) If the tax credit under this section exceeds the
8 taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess of the credit over
9 liability may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's income
10 tax liability in subsequent years until exhausted, unless
11 otherwise elected by the taxpayer pursuant to subsection (f) or
12 (g) [~~or (h)~~]. All claims for the tax credit under this section,
13 including amended claims, shall be filed on or before the end of
14 the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for
15 which the credit may be claimed. Failure to comply with this
16 subsection shall constitute a waiver of the right to claim the
17 credit.

18 [~~(g)~~] (f) For solar or wind energy [~~systems,~~] properties,
19 a taxpayer may elect to reduce the eligible credit amount by
20 thirty per cent and if this reduced amount exceeds the amount of
21 income tax payment due from the taxpayer, the excess of the



1 credit amount over payments due shall be refunded to the
2 taxpayer; provided that tax credit amounts properly claimed by a
3 taxpayer who has no income tax liability shall be paid to the
4 taxpayer; and provided further that no refund on account of the
5 tax credit allowed by this section shall be made for amounts
6 less than \$1.

7 The election required by this subsection shall be made in a
8 manner prescribed by the director on the taxpayer's return for
9 the taxable year in which the ~~[system]~~ solar or wind energy
10 property is installed and first placed in service. A separate
11 election may be made for each separate ~~[system]~~ solar or wind
12 energy property that generates a credit. An election once made
13 is irrevocable.

14 ~~[(h)]~~ (g) Notwithstanding subsection ~~[(g)]~~ (f), for any
15 ~~[renewable energy technology system]~~ solar or wind energy
16 property, an individual taxpayer may elect to have any excess of
17 the credit over payments due refunded to the taxpayer ~~[]~~ without
18 discount, if:

19 (1) All of the taxpayer's income is exempt from taxation
20 under section 235-7(a)(2) or (3); or



1 (2) The taxpayer's adjusted gross income is \$20,000 or
2 less (or \$40,000 or less if filing a tax return as
3 married filing jointly);
4 provided that tax credits properly claimed by a taxpayer who has
5 no income tax liability shall be paid to the taxpayer; and
6 provided further that no refund on account of the tax credit
7 allowed by this section shall be made for amounts less than \$1.

8 A husband and wife who do not file a joint tax return shall
9 only be entitled to make this election to the extent that they
10 would have been entitled to make the election had they filed a
11 joint tax return.

12 The election required by this subsection shall be made in a
13 manner prescribed by the director on the taxpayer's return for
14 the taxable year in which the ~~[system]~~ solar or wind energy
15 property is installed and first placed in service. A separate
16 election may be made for each separate ~~[system]~~ solar or wind
17 energy property that generates a credit. An election once made
18 is irrevocable.

19 ~~[+i+]~~ (h) No taxpayer shall be allowed a credit under this
20 section for the portion of the renewable energy technology
21 system required by section 196-6.5 that is installed and first



1 placed in service on any newly constructed single-family
2 residential property authorized by a building permit issued on
3 or after January 1, 2010.

4 (i) The tax credit under this section shall be construed
5 in accordance with federal regulations and judicial
6 interpretations of similar provisions in sections 25D, 45, and
7 48 of the Internal Revenue Code.

8 (j) A planned community association, condominium
9 association of owners, or cooperative housing corporation may
10 claim the tax credit under this section in its own name for
11 property or facilities placed in service and located on common
12 areas.

13 (k) No credit under this section shall be allowed to any
14 federal, state, or local government or any political
15 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof.

16 ~~[(j)]~~ (l) To the extent feasible, using existing resources
17 to assist the energy-efficiency policy review and evaluation,
18 the department shall assist with data collection on the
19 following for each taxable year:



1 (1) The number of [~~renewable energy technology systems~~]
2 solar or wind energy properties that have qualified
3 for a tax credit during the calendar year by:

4 (A) Technology type; and

5 (B) Taxpayer type (corporate and individual); and

6 (2) The total cost of the tax credit to the State during
7 the taxable year by:

8 (A) Technology type; and

9 (B) Taxpayer type.

10 [~~(k) This section shall apply to eligible renewable energy~~
11 ~~technology systems that are installed and placed in service on~~
12 ~~or after July 1, 2009.] "~~

13 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the
14 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
15 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
16 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
17 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
18 of this Act are severable.

19 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act, upon its approval, shall apply to
4 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

5



Report Title:

Renewable Energy; Solar and Wind Energy Property; Tax Credit

Description:

Replaces the current renewable energy technology systems tax credit with tax credits for solar energy property, wind energy property, and energy storage property. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2016. (SD1)

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

