
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 97, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2015, amended section 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
3 to establish a one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard
4 by December 31, 2045, with the intent to transition the State
5 away from imported fuels and toward renewable local resources
6 that provide a secure source of affordable energy.

7 The legislature further finds that Act 15, Session Laws of
8 Hawaii 2018, established a zero emissions clean economy target
9 "to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than
10 emitted within the State as quickly as practicable, but no later
11 than 2045." Since the enactment of these acts, the need to
12 reduce fossil fuel emissions globally to avoid the worst impacts
13 of climate change has become increasingly urgent. In addition,
14 studies indicate that accelerating the adoption of renewable
15 energy will cost less than the course laid out by the current
16 renewable portfolio standard interim benchmarks.



1 The legislature further finds that speeding the deployment
2 of renewable energy projects will create thousands of jobs and
3 position Hawaii at the forefront of energy innovation and
4 investment.

5 The legislature finds that the current calculation of the
6 renewable portfolio standard, based on electrical energy sales
7 rather than on electrical energy generation, overestimates the
8 amount of renewable energy serving Hawaii's electric utility
9 customers and does not accurately reflect Hawaii's progress
10 towards its stated energy and climate goals. There are two
11 fundamental issues that lead to the current discrepancy:

12 (1) The current renewable portfolio standard calculation
13 inflates the reported percentage of renewable energy
14 by excluding customer-sited, grid-connected energy
15 generation in the denominator, which becomes material
16 with higher levels of customer-sited, grid-connected
17 renewable energy generation; and

18 (2) The current electrical energy sales number does not
19 include energy losses that occur between the points of
20 electrical energy generation and the customer meter,
21 where sales are measured.



1 The legislature further finds that failure to address these
2 issues creates an incorrect measure of the State's progress
3 toward the stated energy and climate goals. Also, the current
4 definition of the renewable portfolio standard allows for the
5 continued use of fossil fuel in significant amounts even after
6 reaching the target for 2045. According to the Power Supply
7 Improvement Plan prepared by Hawaiian Electric Company in 2016,
8 the one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard level
9 (with the current definition, based on sales) could
10 theoretically be reached when seventy-nine per cent of the
11 electricity generated in the State is renewable, with the
12 remaining twenty-one per cent generated by fossil fuels.
13 Changing the renewable portfolio standard to be based on
14 generation, rather than sales, would ensure that a one hundred
15 per cent renewable portfolio standard is achieved.

16 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 17 (1) Amend the definition of renewable portfolio standard
18 to be a percentage of renewable electrical energy
19 generated in the State; and
- 20 (2) Require electric utility companies to track and
21 annually report data and trends on customer retention



1 and attrition to further inform the calculation of the
2 renewable portfolio standards.

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

6 "§269- Annual report; electric utility company. Each
7 electric utility company shall track and report to the public
8 utilities commission, on an annual basis, data and trends
9 regarding customer retention or attrition at a time and in a
10 manner as prescribed by the commission."

11 SECTION 3. Section 269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending the definition of "renewable portfolio
13 standard" to read as follows:

14 ""Renewable portfolio standard" means the percentage of
15 electrical energy [~~sales~~] generation that is represented by
16 renewable electrical energy."

17 SECTION 4. Section 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§269-92 Renewable portfolio standards.** (a) Each
20 electric utility company that sells electricity for consumption
21 in the State shall establish a renewable portfolio standard of:



- 1 (1) Ten per cent of its net electricity sales by
- 2 December 31, 2010;
- 3 (2) Fifteen per cent of its net electricity sales by
- 4 December 31, 2015;
- 5 (3) Thirty per cent of its net electricity sales by
- 6 December 31, 2020;
- 7 (4) Forty per cent of its net electricity [~~sales~~]
- 8 generation by December 31, 2030;
- 9 (5) Seventy per cent of its net electricity [~~sales~~]
- 10 generation by December 31, 2040; and
- 11 (6) One hundred per cent of its net electricity [~~sales~~]
- 12 generation by December 31, 2045.

13 (b) The public utilities commission may establish

14 standards for each electric utility company that prescribe

15 [~~what~~] the portion of the renewable portfolio standards that

16 shall be met by specific types of renewable energy resources;

17 provided that:

- 18 (1) Prior to January 1, 2015, at least fifty per cent of
- 19 the renewable portfolio standards shall be met by
- 20 electrical energy generated using renewable energy as
- 21 the source, and after December 31, 2014, the entire



1 renewable portfolio standard shall be met by
2 electrical generation from renewable energy sources;

3 (2) Beginning January 1, 2015, electrical energy savings
4 shall not count toward renewable energy portfolio
5 standards;

6 (3) Where electrical energy is generated or displaced by a
7 combination of renewable and nonrenewable means, the
8 proportion attributable to the renewable means shall
9 be credited as renewable energy; and

10 (4) Where fossil and renewable fuels are co-fired in the
11 same generating unit, the unit shall be considered to
12 generate renewable electrical energy (electricity) in
13 direct proportion to the percentage of the total heat
14 input value represented by the heat input value of the
15 renewable fuels.

16 (c) If the public utilities commission determines that an
17 electric utility company failed to meet the renewable portfolio
18 standard, after a hearing in accordance with chapter 91, the
19 utility shall be subject to penalties to be established by the
20 public utilities commission; provided that if the commission
21 determines that the electric utility company is unable to meet



1 the renewable portfolio standards [~~due to~~] because of reasons
2 beyond the reasonable control of [~~an~~] the electric utility[~~]~~
3 company, as set forth in subsection (d), the commission, in its
4 discretion, may waive in whole or in part any otherwise
5 applicable penalties.

6 (d) Events or circumstances that are [~~outside of~~] beyond
7 an electric utility company's reasonable control may include, to
8 the extent the event or circumstance could not be reasonably
9 foreseen and ameliorated:

- 10 (1) Weather-related damage;
- 11 (2) Natural disasters;
- 12 (3) Mechanical or resource failure;
- 13 (4) Failure of renewable electrical energy producers to
14 meet contractual obligations to the electric utility
15 company;
- 16 (5) Labor strikes or lockouts;
- 17 (6) Actions of governmental authorities that adversely
18 affect the generation, transmission, or distribution
19 of renewable electrical energy under contract to an
20 electric utility company;



- 1 (7) Inability to acquire sufficient renewable electrical
- 2 energy due to lapsing of tax credits related to
- 3 renewable energy development;
- 4 (8) Inability to obtain permits or land use approvals for
- 5 renewable electrical energy projects;
- 6 (9) Inability to acquire sufficient cost-effective
- 7 renewable electrical energy;
- 8 (10) Inability to acquire sufficient renewable electrical
- 9 energy to meet the renewable portfolio standard goals
- 10 beyond 2030 in a manner that is beneficial to Hawaii's
- 11 economy in relation to comparable fossil fuel
- 12 resources;
- 13 (11) Substantial limitations, restrictions, or prohibitions
- 14 on utility renewable electrical energy projects; and
- 15 (12) Other events and circumstances of a similar nature."

16 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
18 begun before its effective date.

19 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Renewable Portfolio Standards; Electricity; Electric Utility Company; Report

Description:

Amends the definition of renewable portfolio standard to be a percentage of electrical energy generation, rather than sales. Requires electric utility companies to track and annually report data and trends on customer retention and attrition to further inform the calculation of renewable portfolio standards. (SD1)

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