
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 Act 97, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2015, requires electric utilities in the State to
3 achieve a one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard by
4 December 31, 2045, in order to transition the State away from
5 imported fossil fuels and toward locally available renewable
6 energy sources.

7 The legislature further finds that to encourage the timely
8 build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of
9 low-cost renewable energy generation and storage assets, Hawaii
10 must lower the administrative barriers that constrain deployment
11 of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy
12 resources.

13 The legislature further finds that permitting processes can
14 add substantial time and cost to the adoption of residential
15 solar and energy storage projects, and that online permitting
16 tools such as the United States Department of Energy's SolarAPP+
17 have been successfully implemented by hundreds of government



1 entities that issue building permits throughout the nation. The
2 legislature also finds that Hawaii's permit-issuing government
3 entities should similarly take advantage of these tools to help
4 meet the State's clean energy, reliability, and resilience
5 needs.

6 The purpose of this Act is to reduce administrative
7 barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage
8 technology systems by requiring government entities in the State
9 that issue building permits to implement, by January 1, 2025,
10 SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated
11 permitting platform that processes and issues permits to
12 licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource
13 systems in real time.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 **"§196-A Building permits; issuing entities; adoption of**
18 **online automated permitting platform; solar distributed energy**
19 **resource systems.** (a) Any government entity in the State that
20 issues building permits shall:



- 1 (1) By January 1, 2025, implement SolarAPP+ or a
2 functionally equivalent online automated permitting
3 platform that processes and issues permits to licensed
4 contractors for solar distributed energy resource
5 systems in real time; provided that the government
6 entity shall adopt a self-certification process
7 pursuant to section 196-B for solar distributed energy
8 resource systems that are not compatible with
9 SolarAPP+, or a functional online equivalent, at the
10 time the permit application is submitted to the
11 government entity;
- 12 (2) Notify the Hawaii state energy office when it achieves
13 compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1); and
- 14 (3) Submit annual notifications of its compliance with the
15 requirements of paragraph (1) to the Hawaii state
16 energy office.
- 17 (b) In issuing building permits in compliance with
18 subsection (a), the applicable government entity in the State
19 may promote the use of labor standards, including but not
20 limited to living wages, benefits, and requirements for
21 participation in state-approved apprenticeship programs.



1 (c) As used in this section:

2 "Solar distributed energy resource system" means an
3 assembly of solar energy-generating or energy-storing materials,
4 or any combined assembly of solar energy-generating and energy-
5 storing materials, and the related infrastructure necessary for
6 its operation.

7 "SolarAPP+" means the web-based portal and associated
8 software tools developed by the National Renewable Energy
9 Laboratory, as updated from time to time.

10 **§196-B Adoption of self-certification for solar**
11 **distributed energy resource systems; permit approval; notice.**

12 (a) Any government entity in the State that issues building
13 permits in any area of the State served by an investor-owned
14 electric utility shall establish a self-certification process
15 for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy
16 resource systems that deems permit applications approved and
17 allows applicants to proceed to build immediately; provided that
18 the government entity receives written notice from:

19 (1) The project owner, or an agent of the project owner,
20 that the owner or agent requests issuance of the
21 permit and is prepared to pay any required fees; and



1 (2) The projects' relevant licensed professionals in their
2 respective fields, that the installation of the system
3 complies with all applicable codes and laws.

4 (b) A permit application or self-certification for a solar
5 distributed energy resource system shall not require submission
6 of an approved materials and methods number; provided that the
7 following are submitted with the license holder's written
8 notification pursuant to subsection (a):

9 (1) A manufacturer specification sheet;

10 (2) An installation and operations manual; and

11 (3) A UL or other national testing laboratory
12 certification.

13 (c) If the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied,
14 the applicable government entity in the State that issues
15 building permits shall issue the building permit number and
16 close the permit within thirty days of submittal; provided that
17 a final inspection after the completion of the project has
18 deemed the installation to be in compliance with all applicable
19 codes and laws before the closing of the permit.



1 (d) As used in this section, "solar distributed energy
2 resource system" has the same meaning as defined in section
3 196-A."

4 SECTION 3. The Hawaii state energy office shall develop a
5 plan for the State to achieve its energy goals with deadlines,
6 including the renewable portfolio standards set forth in section
7 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, before January 1, 2025, the
8 date by which government entities in the State that issue
9 building permits are required to implement SolarAPP+ or a
10 functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform
11 that processes and issues permits to licensed contractors for
12 solar distributed energy resource systems in real time, pursuant
13 to section 196-A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by
15 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
16 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
17 the new sections in this Act.

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Energy Office; Solar Distributed Energy Resource Systems; Building Permits; Online Automated Permitting Platform; SolarAPP+; Self-certification Process

Description:

Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time.

Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to develop a plan for the State to achieve its energy goals with deadlines, including the Renewable Portfolio Standards, before 1/1/2025. Takes effect 1/1/2060. (SD2)

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