

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BUILDING CODES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that certain  
2 refrigerants, including hydrofluorocarbons, are potent  
3 greenhouse gases that can have an immense impact on global  
4 warming. The legislature further finds that the United States  
5 Congress passed the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of  
6 2020, which mandates an eighty-five per cent phasedown in  
7 hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants. The legislature further finds  
8 that the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons includes restricting  
9 the use of hydrofluorocarbons in certain applications and  
10 directing the transition to hydrofluorocarbon substitutes. This  
11 phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons is expected to reduce  
12 hydrofluorocarbon emissions by approximately 2.4 billion metric  
13 tons of carbon dioxide by 2035 and avoid up to a one-half degree  
14 Celsius global temperature increase by 2100.

15           The legislature further finds that building codes across  
16 the country must be updated to comply with the American  
17 Innovation and Manufacturing Act and the Environmental



1 Protection Agency's rules and regulations concerning the  
2 transition to hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant alternatives. The  
3 building code updates will provide the certainty that the  
4 manufacturing industry needs to comply with federal regulations  
5 and ensure that the transition to alternate refrigerants is safe  
6 and efficient.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

8 (1) Clarify that no state or county building code shall  
9 prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed  
10 by the Environmental Protection Agency if the  
11 applicable equipment is listed and installed in  
12 compliance with any applicable safety standards and  
13 use conditions; and

14 (2) Require the state building code council, when  
15 adopting, amending, or updating the Hawaii state  
16 building codes, to establish codes and standards that  
17 are consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse  
18 gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding two new sections to part II to be  
21 appropriately designated and to read as follows:



1        "§107-        Refrigerant use.  No provision of the Hawaii  
2        state building codes or any county building code shall prohibit  
3        or otherwise limit the use of a refrigerant designated as  
4        acceptable for use pursuant to title 42 United States Code  
5        section 7671k; provided that any equipment containing the  
6        refrigerant shall be listed and installed in accordance with any  
7        applicable safety standards and use conditions imposed for that  
8        equipment or refrigerant.

9        §107-        Hawaii state building codes; hydrofluorocarbons;  
10       update.  When adopting, amending, or updating the codes and  
11       standards identified in section 107-25, the council shall  
12       establish codes and standards that are consistent with the goal  
13       of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with  
14       hydrofluorocarbons."

15        SECTION 3.  New statutory material is underscored.

16        SECTION 4.  This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

State Building Codes; County Building Codes; Refrigerants; Safe Alternatives; Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Description:**

Clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in compliance with the latest safety standards. Requires the State Building Code Council, when it adopts, amends, or updates the Hawaii State Building Codes, to establish codes and standards that are consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

