
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of
2 Hawaii, including renters, condominium residents, and residents
3 of multi-family dwellings, lack access to traditional rooftop
4 photovoltaic systems due to ownership restrictions, structural
5 limitations, or cost barriers. The legislature further finds
6 that small-scale, portable plug-in solar generation devices have
7 emerged as a safe and cost-effective means to offset on-site
8 electricity consumption when operated within defined limits and
9 equipped with appropriate safety features. The legislature
10 recognizes that existing electric utility interconnection
11 requirements were developed primarily for permanently installed
12 distributed energy generation systems and may create unnecessary
13 barriers to the use of portable solar devices designed for self-
14 consumption and minimal grid interaction. The legislature also
15 finds that expanding access to these devices is consistent with
16 the State's policy to achieve a one hundred per cent renewable



1 portfolio standard and to promote distributed renewable energy
2 resources for all customers.

3 The purpose of this Act is to expand equitable access to
4 renewable energy by prohibiting binding agreements preventing
5 the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device
6 on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 **"§196- Placement of portable plug-in solar generation**

11 **devices.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no
12 person shall be prevented by any covenant, declaration, bylaws,
13 restriction, deed, lease, term, provision, condition, codicil,
14 contract, or similar binding agreement, however worded, from
15 installing a portable plug-in solar generation device on any
16 residential dwelling, including a condominium unit, that the
17 person owns. Any provision in any lease, instrument, or
18 contract contrary to the intent of this section shall be void.

19 (b) Landlords or condominium associations may impose
20 reasonable restrictions relating to safety, structural
21 integrity, aesthetics, and common property protections; provided



1 that the restrictions do not amount to a blanket prohibition on
2 the use of portable plug-in solar generation devices that
3 otherwise comply with this section and applicable codes.

4 (c) The aggregate rated alternating-current output
5 capacity of all portable plug-in solar generation devices
6 connected to a single electric service shall not exceed one
7 thousand two hundred watts, unless a higher aggregate limit is
8 established for portable plug-in solar generation devices in an
9 electric utility tariff approved by the public utilities
10 commission.

11 (d) A portable plug-in solar generation device shall:
12 (1) Not be considered a distributed energy generation
13 facility or distributed energy resource for purposes
14 of individual electric utility interconnection
15 approval requirements; and
16 (2) Be exempt from any requirement to obtain
17 interconnection approval or enter into an
18 interconnection agreement with an electric utility.

19 (e) A portable plug-in solar generation device shall not
20 be eligible to participate in net energy metering or any



1 successor program or tariff that provides compensation or credit
2 for electricity exported to the electric grid.

3 (f) A portable plug-in solar generation device shall:

4 (1) Include integrated safety features designed to prevent
5 energizing the building's electrical system during a
6 power outage, including anti-islanding functionality;

7 (2) Be listed and labeled by a nationally recognized
8 testing laboratory for the intended application,
9 including, as applicable, listing to nationally
10 recognized standards for grid-interactive inverters or
11 microinverters, such as those published by
12 Underwriters Laboratories or its successors; and

13 (3) Be installed, connected, and used in accordance with
14 the applicable provisions of the National Electrical
15 Code, as adopted by the State and counties, and with
16 applicable state and county building, electrical, and
17 fire codes.

18 (g) An electric utility shall not require a customer to:

19 (1) Obtain advance utility approval before installing or
20 using a portable plug-in solar generation device that
21 complies with this section;



1 (2) Pay a fee specific to the installation or use of a
2 portable plug-in solar generation device; or
3 (3) Install additional external controls, disconnects, or
4 equipment beyond those integrated into the portable
5 plug-in solar generation device as manufactured and
6 listed;
7 provided that nothing in this subsection shall preclude the
8 public utilities commission from approving reasonable, generally
9 applicable, technology-neutral safety or reporting requirements
10 for portable plug-in solar generation devices that are
11 consistent with this section and do not require individual
12 interconnection review or approval of a customer's device.

13 (h) A customer that installs or uses a portable plug-in
14 solar generation device shall be solely responsible for the safe
15 installation, operation, and maintenance of the device in
16 accordance with this section and applicable codes. An electric
17 utility shall not be liable for any damage to property or injury
18 to persons arising from the installation, operation, or use of a
19 portable plug-in solar generation device.

20 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:



- 1 (1) Limit the authority of the public utilities commission
2 to regulate electric utilities generally or to ensure
3 the safety and reliability of the electric system;
4 provided that utility tariffs and interconnection
5 requirements shall conform to this section;
6 (2) Limit the authority of the public utilities commission
7 under this chapter and chapter 269; and
8 (3) Authorize a portable plug-in solar generation device
9 that creates an unreasonable safety hazard, obstructs
10 required building egress, or violates applicable
11 building, electrical, or fire codes.
12 (j) For purposes of this section, "portable plug-in solar
13 generation device" means a movable photovoltaic electric
14 generation device that:
15 (1) Has a rated alternating-current output capacity, as
16 stated on the device's nameplate rating, of no more
17 than one thousand two hundred watts;
18 (2) Is designed to connect to a building's electrical
19 system through a standard one-hundred-twenty-volt
20 alternating-current electrical outlet; and



1 (3) Is used to offset a portion of the electricity
2 consumption of the customer at the premises where the
3 device is used."

4 SECTION 3. The public utilities commission shall review
5 and, if necessary, require revisions to electric utility
6 tariffs, rules, or interconnection requirements to ensure
7 consistency with this Act, including any aggregate capacity
8 provisions applicable to portable plug-in solar generation
9 devices.

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12

INTRODUCED BY:



A large, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Pocan".

JAN 27 2026



H.B. NO. 2435

Report Title:

Portable Plug-In Solar Generation Device; Installation;
Residential Dwellings

Description:

Prohibits binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

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

