

JAN 21 2026

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, to transition the State away from imported
5 fossil fuels and toward locally available renewable energy
6 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 notes that on January 27, 2025, the
14 governor signed executive order No. 25-01 (Accelerating Hawai'i's
15 Transition Toward 100 Percent Renewable Energy), which, among
16 other things, calls for establishing programs for same-day
17 online permit issuance of all single-family residential homes,



1 self-certification permitting for all townhome projects twenty
2 kilowatts and under, and professional self-certification for
3 permitting behind-the-meter customer-sited solar, energy
4 storage, and energy efficiency measures for commercial and
5 multi-family condominium projects.

6 The legislature further finds that existing permitting
7 processes can add substantial time and cost to the adoption of
8 residential solar and energy storage projects and that online
9 permitting tools such as the United States Department of
10 Energy's SolarAPP+ have been successfully implemented by
11 hundreds of government entities that issue building permits
12 throughout the nation. The legislature finds that Hawaii's
13 permit-issuing government entities should similarly take
14 advantage of these tools to help meet the State's clean energy,
15 reliability, and resilience needs.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to reduce
17 administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation
18 and storage technology systems by:

- 19 (1) Requiring government entities in the State that issue
20 building permits to implement SolarAPP+, or a
21 functionally equivalent online automated permitting



1 platform, that processes and issues permits to
2 licensed contractors for solar distributed energy
3 resource systems in real time by January 1, 2027; and
4 (2) Requiring government entities in the State that issue
5 building permits in areas served by an investor-owned
6 electric utility to adopt a self-certification process
7 for solar distributed energy resource systems that are
8 not SolarAPP+ compatible.

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

12 **"§196-A Building permits; issuing entities; adoption of**
13 **online automated permitting platform; solar distributed energy**
14 **resource systems.** (a) Any government entity in the State that
15 issues building permits shall:

16 (1) By January 1, 2027, implement SolarAPP+ or a
17 functionally equivalent online automated permitting
18 platform that processes and issues permits to licensed
19 contractors for solar distributed energy resource
20 systems in real time; provided that the government
21 entity shall adopt a self-certification process



1 pursuant to section 196-B for solar distributed energy
2 resource systems that are not compatible with
3 SolarAPP+, or a functional online equivalent, at the
4 time the permit application is submitted to the
5 government entity;

6 (2) Notify the Hawaii state energy office when it achieves
7 compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1); and

8 (3) Submit annual notifications of its compliance with the
9 requirements of paragraph (1) to the Hawaii state
10 energy office.

11 (b) In issuing building permits in compliance with
12 subsection (a), the applicable government entity in the State
13 may promote the use of labor standards, including but not
14 limited to living wages, benefits, and requirements for
15 participation in state-approved apprenticeship programs.

16 (c) As used in this section:

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

20 "Solar distributed energy resource system" means an
21 assembly of solar energy-generating or energy-storing materials,



1 or any combined assembly of solar energy-generating and energy-
2 storing materials, and the related infrastructure necessary for
3 its operation.

4 **§196-B Adoption of self-certification for solar**
5 **distributed energy resource systems; permit; approval; notice.**

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

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

16 (2) The duly licensed architect, duly licensed engineer,
17 duly licensed electrician, or duly licensed plumber,
18 as applicable, who intends to install the solar
19 distributed energy resource system that the
20 installation of the system complies with all
21 applicable codes and laws.



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

6 (1) A manufacturer specification sheet;

7 (2) An installation and operations manual; and

8 (3) A UL or other national testing laboratory
9 certification.

10 (c) If the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied,
11 the applicable government entity in the State that issues
12 building permits shall issue the building permit number and
13 close the permit within thirty days of submittal.

14 (d) As used in this section, "solar distributed energy
15 resource system" has the same meaning as defined in section
16 196-A."

17 SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section
18 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
19 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
20 the new sections in this Act.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2327

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabban*



S.B. NO. 2327

Report Title:

Solar Distributed Energy Resource Systems; Building Permits;
Online Automated Permitting Platform; Self-Certification Process

Description:

Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement 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 by 1/1/2027. 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.

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

