

JAN 21 2026

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# 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 **S196-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.



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Gabbard



# 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.*

