

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that solar energy has  
2 become one of the most cost-effective and clean energy sources  
3 in the world. Hawaii has long capitalized on the State's  
4 abundant sunlight by using large-scale solar farms to power  
5 electric utilities and rooftop solar systems to serve individual  
6 households. Hawaii currently leads the nation in rooftop solar  
7 installations per capita, and advancements in technology  
8 continue to make solar energy more accessible and affordable for  
9 the State's residents.

10       The legislature further finds that portable solar  
11 generation devices, also known as "balcony solar" or "plug-in  
12 solar" devices, offer new opportunities for families to generate  
13 their own electricity. These devices are particularly  
14 advantageous to residents of apartments, other rental  
15 properties, and small businesses. Apartment residents can  
16 safely install units on balconies or patios, and renters can  
17 easily relocate their systems when they move to a new home.



1       The legislature recognizes that portable solar generation  
2 devices have significantly lower upfront costs than rooftop  
3 solar systems and can be installed by consumers without any  
4 specialized training. A typical portable solar generation  
5 device costs less than \$2,500. Although the devices produce  
6 less electricity than typical rooftop solar systems, they can  
7 supply enough power to operate common household appliances like  
8 lights, televisions, computers, and refrigerators. The devices  
9 can help offset residents' consumption of electricity and help  
10 save on customers' electricity bills.

11       The legislature notes that a portable solar generation  
12 device is installed by plugging it in to a standard household  
13 electricity outlet. Electricity generated by the device is used  
14 by appliances connected to the home's other outlets. Built-in  
15 safety features prevent electricity from flowing onto the grid  
16 during a power outage, and any surplus energy generated cannot  
17 be sold to the electric utility.

18       The legislature also notes that, while surplus energy  
19 cannot be sold, it can be stored in a battery, which allows  
20 users to save electricity produced during the day for use at  
21 night or at other times when there is little sun. Although



1 batteries remain relatively expensive, costs are decreasing, and  
2 combining these systems can yield long-term savings on a  
3 household's overall electricity expenses and provide benefits to  
4 the electric grid.

5 The legislature believes that establishing a clear  
6 regulatory framework for portable solar generation devices will  
7 help encourage safe and efficient use of the devices; expand  
8 access to clean, renewable energy; promote equity among  
9 electricity consumers; lower electricity bills; and advance  
10 Hawaii's clean energy goals.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish  
12 standards and registration requirements for the use of portable  
13 solar generation devices in the State.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding two new sections to part I to be appropriately  
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§269- Portable solar generation devices. (a) Each  
18 portable solar generation device used in the State shall be:

19 (1) Exempt from the net metering program requirements set  
20 out in part VI of this chapter, any reliability  
21 standards and interconnection requirements established



1           pursuant to section 269-143, and procedures for  
2           interconnection established pursuant to  
3           section 269-145;

4       (2) Eligible for installation and use by an electric  
5       utility customer without:

6           (A) Obtaining the electric utility company's  
7           approval;

8           (B) Paying to the electric utility company any fee or  
9           charge related to the use of the device; or

10          (C) Installing any controls or equipment beyond the  
11          controls or equipment that are integrated into  
12          the device; and

13       (3) Registered with the public utilities commission under  
14       section 269- .

15       (b) The maximum aggregate rated power output of all  
16       portable solar generation devices connected to the electrical  
17       meter shall not exceed 1,200 watts.

18       (c) No electric utility company shall be liable for any  
19       damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device.

20       **\$269-       Registering portable solar generation devices.**

21       The public utilities commission shall establish and maintain an



1 online system for registering portable solar generation devices;  
2 provided that no fee shall be charged to the customer for the  
3 registration."

4 SECTION 3. Section 269-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
6 and to read as follows:

7 "Portable solar generation device" means a movable  
8 photovoltaic generation device that:

9 (1) Has a maximum aggregate rated power output of one  
10 thousand two hundred watts or less;

11 (2) Is designed to be connected to a building's electrical  
12 system through a standard one hundred twenty volt  
13 alternating current outlet;

14 (3) Is intended primarily to offset part of the customer's  
15 consumption of electricity from an electric utility  
16 company;

17 (4) Includes a mechanism to prevent the device from  
18 energizing the electric utility's distribution system  
19 during a power outage; and



1        (5) Is certified, or each part of which is certified, by  
2                Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally  
3                recognized testing laboratory."

4            SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
5 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
6 begun before its effective date.

7            SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

8            SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9  
INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2940

**Report Title:**

PUC; Portable Solar Generation Device; Requirements;  
Registration

**Description:**

Defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. Requires each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission. Provides that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish and maintain an online system for registering a portable solar generation device, at no cost to the customer.

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