

JAN 23 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 solar energy has
2 become the most cost-effective source of electricity in the
3 world. Forty-three per cent of single-family homes in Hawaii
4 have installed rooftop solar systems, reducing the cost of power
5 for each of those households, and providing aggregate energy
6 onto the electric grid and helping to avoid the need for all
7 ratepayers to pay for additional generation capacity. However,
8 homes without adequate rooftop space have often been unable to
9 take advantage of innovative solar technology to reduce their
10 own bills.

11 The legislature further finds that affordable portable
12 solar generation devices, commonly referred to as "balcony
13 solar" or "plug-in solar", offer new opportunities for families
14 to generate their own electricity. These systems typically cost
15 less than \$1,000 and are particularly advantageous to residents
16 of apartments and rental properties. Apartment dwellers can



1 install units on balconies, and renters can easily relocate
2 their systems when they move to a new home.

3 The legislature further finds that although these devices
4 produce less electricity than typical rooftop systems, they can
5 supply enough power to operate common household appliances such
6 as lights, televisions, computers, and refrigerators. Once
7 installed, a portable solar generation device plugs into a
8 standard household electrical outlet. Electricity generated by
9 the device is used by appliances connected to the home's other
10 outlets, while built-in safety features prevent electricity from
11 flowing into the grid. Any surplus generation is unused and
12 cannot be sold to the electric utility.

13 The legislature therefore finds that establishing a clear
14 regulatory framework for portable solar generation devices will
15 encourage their safe and effective use, expand access to clean,
16 renewable energy, and most importantly help families reduce
17 their cost of electricity.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a
19 regulatory framework to support and expand the use of portable
20 solar generation devices in the State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 **"§269- Portable solar generation devices.** (a) No
5 portable solar generation device shall be subject to the net
6 metering program requirements under this chapter.

7 (b) A portable solar generation device shall include a
8 device or feature that prevents the system from energizing the
9 building's electrical system during a power outage.

10 (c) No electric utility company shall require a customer
11 using a portable solar generation device to:

12 (1) Obtain the electric utility company's approval to
13 install or use the device;
14 (2) Pay any fee or charge related to the device; or
15 (3) Install any additional controls or equipment beyond
16 what is integrated into the device.

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

19 **§269- Registration; portable solar generation devices.**
20 The public utilities commission shall establish and maintain an
21 online system for registration of portable solar generation



1 devices. The public utilities commission may delegate this
2 responsibility to any person. No fee shall be required for
3 registration."

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 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 moveable
8 photovoltaic generation device that has the following
9 characteristics:

- 10 (1) Its maximum power output is not more than one thousand
11 two hundred watts;
- 12 (2) It is designed to be connected to a building's
13 electrical system through a standard one hundred
14 twenty-volt alternating current outlet;
- 15 (3) It is intended primarily to offset part of the
16 customer's consumption of electricity from electric
17 utility companies;
- 18 (4) It complies with the standards of the most recent
19 version of the National Electrical Code; and
- 20 (5) It is certified by Underwriters Laboratories to meet
21 standard UL 3700, or an equivalent nationally



1 recognized testing laboratory, or each part of the
2 device is so certified."

3 SECTION 4. The public utilities commission shall submit
4 biannual progress reports on the use of portable solar
5 generation devices to the legislature no later than twenty days
6 prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028
7 and no later than twenty days after the adjournment sine die of
8 the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028. The reports shall
9 include but not be limited to:

10 (1) The number of portable solar generation devices
11 registered with the commission;
12 (2) Any problems encountered by registrants and electric
13 utility companies; and
14 (3) The commission's findings, recommendations, and any
15 proposed legislation.

16 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

18

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3003

Report Title:

PUC; Portable Solar Generation Devices; Requirements; Registration; Online System; Reports

Description:

Defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish an online registration system. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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

