

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL 40 (2024)

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**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

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RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings.

Ordinance 23-29, approved on November 16, 2023, is intended to provide a temporary pathway for professional self-certification of permits for certain eligible projects. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Ordinance 23-29 by adding solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification.

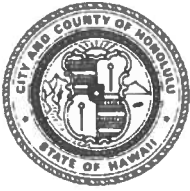
The City Council ("Council") finds that climate change and the current high cost and unreliability of grid-scale energy present an imminent threat to the residents and businesses of the City and County of Honolulu ("City"). The rapid adoption of clean energy solutions is essential to increasing resiliency, reducing energy costs, and mitigating the threat of climate change. Permitting requirements add significant costs and pose barriers to the adoption of clean energy solutions and have greatly constrained clean energy access for the multi-family dwelling and commercial sectors, thereby limiting the availability of affordable and reliable energy sources to condominiums and businesses. O'ahu has an abundance of available clean energy sources, as well as potential clean energy facility sites, such as condominiums with rooftops and parking lots. The City is well-positioned to be a leader in the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions in the multi-family dwelling and commercial building sectors.

The Council also finds that the Department of Planning and Permitting has faced capacity and other challenges that have delayed or created barriers to investment in solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency solutions in the multi-family dwelling and commercial building sectors.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 23-29, SECTION 2, is amended by amending subsection (a) by amending the definition of "Eligible Project" to read as follows:

**"Eligible Project.** A project that only:

- (1) Involves the development of an affordable rental housing project pursuant to ROH Chapter 32;

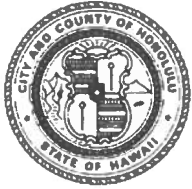


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- (2) Consists of commercial building tenant improvements, defined as any interior renovation, alteration, or modification of an existing building used for commercial purposes by a tenant or lessee that does not change the functional use of the building from the use indicated or shown on the previous building permit. ~~[The]~~ Except for improvements under subdivision (4), the following types of commercial building tenant improvements are not eligible for the self-certification program:
- (A) All exterior improvements to a commercial building, including but not limited to any modification or alteration to exterior walls that would change the number, size, or location of existing doorways or window penetrations;
  - (B) Any work that would conflict or be inconsistent with the previous building permit plans and approvals;
  - (C) Any work that requires approval by the building board of appeals to deviate from a relevant code; or
  - (D) Any work that involves alternate methods, including the use of structures or components that require materials and methods approval, such as prefabricated buildings; ~~[or]~~
- (3) Involves a residential project located on lands managed by or under the jurisdiction of, or both, ~~[of]~~ the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands~~[-];~~ or
- (4) Involves any work on the installation of solar, energy storage, or energy efficiency projects in the multi-family dwelling or commercial building sector."

SECTION 3. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New ordinance material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.



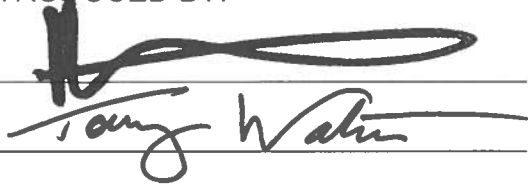
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SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

  
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUL 23 2024  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu

**Report Title:**

Self-certification; Eligible Projects; Solar Energy; Energy Conservation

**Description:**

Amends Ordinance 23-29 by adding solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification.

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