HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **40 (2024), CD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

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 definitions of "Eligible Project" and "Relevant Code" 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;

(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 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~~] Except for improvements under subdivision (4), 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 work associated with the installation of solar, energy storage, or energy efficiency projects in a multi-family dwelling or commercial building; provided that:

(A) The project involves customer-sited behind-the-meter installations, and does not involve utility-scale installations; and

(B) The project complies with all relevant codes, and the building permit application includes all required plans.

For purposes of this subdivision, "energy efficiency project" means the design and installation of equipment, facilities, technologies, or associated processes that individually or collectively function to reduce demand for

and use of energy, including but not limited to heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, water chilling, thermostats, pumps, controllers, and building energy management systems."

"***Relevant Code.*** The Building Code and Residential Code (ROH Chapter 16), [~~Electrical Code (ROH Chapter 17), Plumbing Code (ROH Chapter 19),~~] Housing Code (ROH Chapter 16A), [~~or~~] Building Energy Conservation Code (ROH Chapter 16B), Building Management (ROH Chapter 16C), Electrical Code (ROH Chapter 17), Fees and Permits for Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Sidewalk Codes (ROH Chapter 18), Grading, Soil, Erosion, and Sediment Control (ROH Chapter 18A), or Plumbing Code (ROH Chapter 19), as appropriate, applicable to the work identified in a building permit application and accompanying plans, for which a self-certified professional is licensed."

SECTION 3. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New ordinance material is underscored.

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SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Matt Weyer

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: _____

July 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. Amends the definition of "Relevant Code" to include Chapters 16C, 18, and 18A, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH").

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