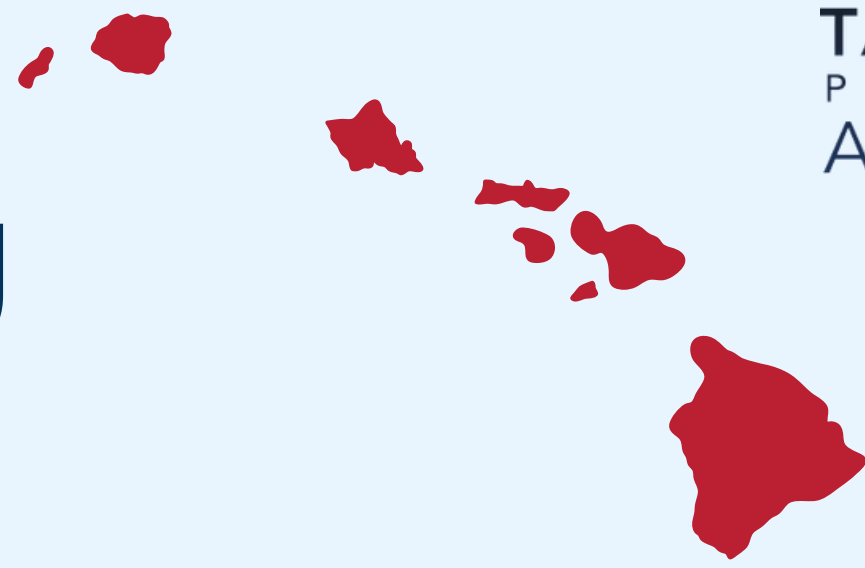


DATA CENTERS IN HAWAII: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Recently, data center operations and proposed projects have received a significant amount of attention from Hawaii policymakers, pundits, and economic analysts. According to a [February report](#) from *Data Center Dynamics*, “Servpac, a data center provider based in Hawaii, has broken ground on a data center expansion that will double the IT capacity of its MTP [Mililani Technology Park] Data Center on O’ahu. ... the expansion will come in the form of a \$13 million, 5-acre data center located in Mililani Technology Park, which is home to a variety of tech and telco companies.”

PROPOSED AND PASSED RESTRICTIONS ON DATA CENTERS

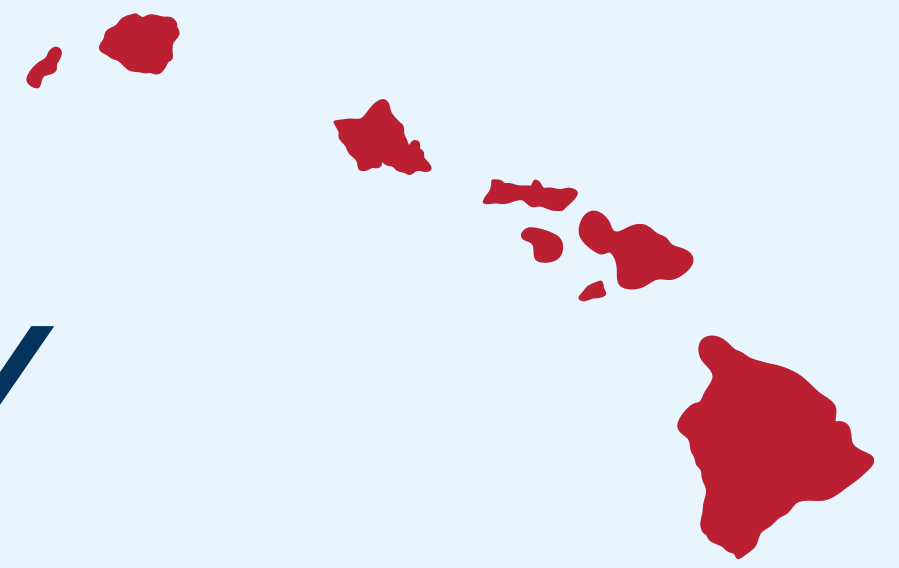
- ✱ Hawaii County Commercial Data Center Ban (Bill 170): Introduced by Hawaii County Councilmember Heather Kimball, [this proposal](#) would amend Chapter 25 (Zoning) of the Hawaii County Code to explicitly define “data centers” and prohibit them in all zoning districts on the Big Island. The proposal distinguishes industrial-scale data centers from smaller data-processing facilities and excludes certain uses from its definition, including university educational and research computing facilities, government and hospital systems, telecommunications facilities, and business offices where servers are incidental to the primary use. As a result, facilities such as the University of Hawaii at Hilo’s research data center would not be subject to the prohibition, while existing telecommunications operations such as Hawaiian Telcom’s Kawaihae facility would not be retroactively affected.
- ✱ Hawaii Large Data Center Working Group: During the 2026 legislative session, lawmakers advanced resolutions directing/requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to [convene a working group](#) to examine potential restrictions on large data centers. The proposals call for consideration of a megawatt threshold defining large facilities, requirements that developers bear infrastructure costs, protection of existing ratepayers, renewable-energy requirements, on-site backup power and storage, automatic load curtailment during grid emergencies, water-impact assessments, and independently verified reporting of electricity, water, and greenhouse-gas emissions. The working group would recommend potential legislation or regulatory actions before the 2027 legislative session rather than impose these requirements directly.



DATA CENTER DANGERS SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED

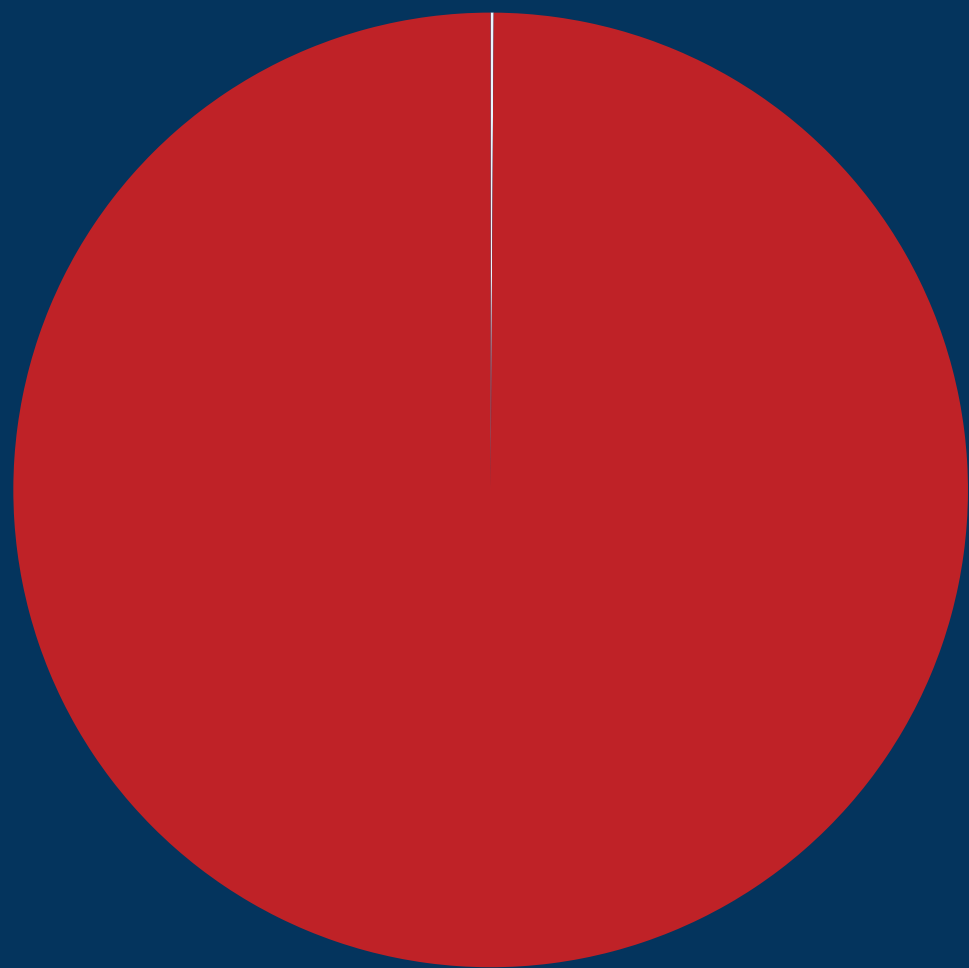
Advocates of bans or restrictions often cite supposedly excessive water or electricity consumption by new data center operations. In an essay published in the *Honolulu Civil Beat* in May, a group of professors and local activists [claimed](#), “a single data center’s daily demand can easily rival or exceed the municipal-scale water needs of an entire community [and] large facilities draw power comparable to over 100,000 homes.” The truth is data centers account for a small proportion of water and electricity use in Hawaii.

DATA CENTER MYTH V. REALITY



HAWAII WATER USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Water Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of water.

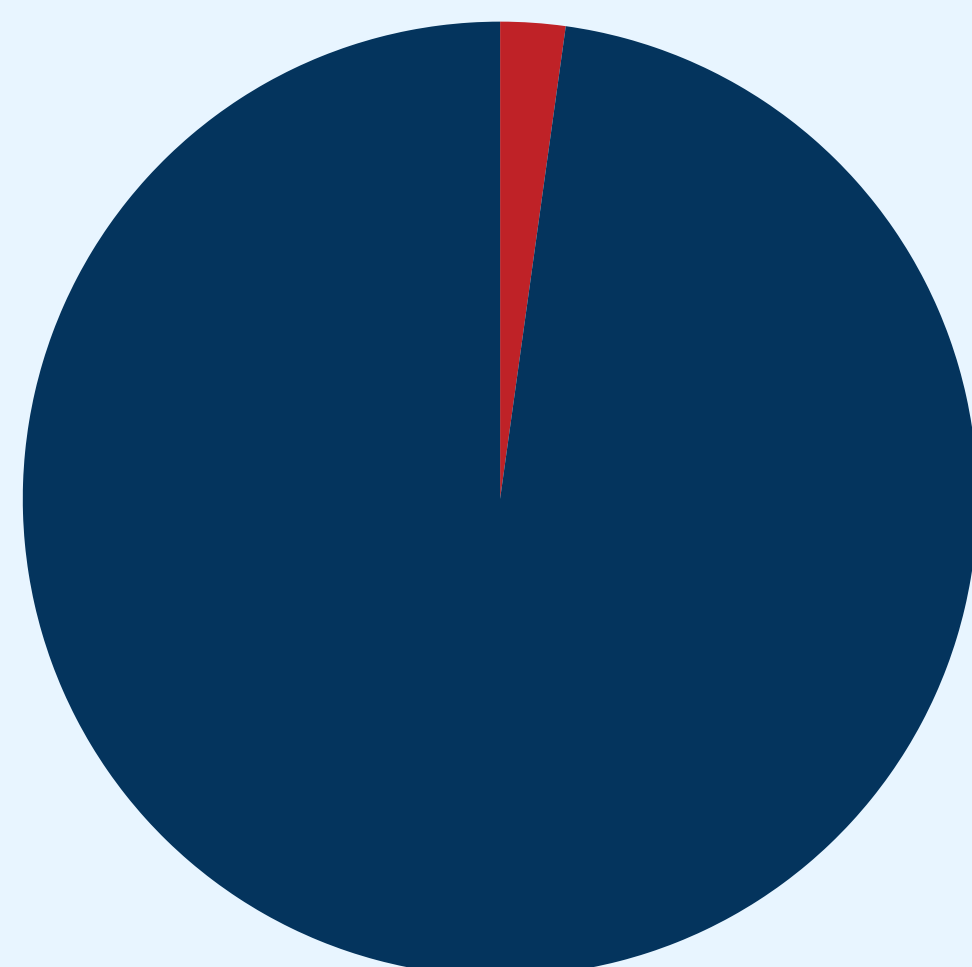
REALITY:

In Hawaii, data centers accounted for **0.1 percent** of all water consumption in 2025.

Brookings Institution data center water use estimates; Baxtel data center count; U.S. Geological Survey state-level aggregate water consumption figures.

HAWAII ELECTRICITY USAGE, 2025

- Data Center Electricity Consumption
- All Other Consumption



MYTH:

Data centers are using up a significant percentage of electricity.

REALITY:

In Hawaii, data centers accounted for **2.2 percent** of all electricity consumption in 2025.

Electric Choice data center power consumption figures; U.S. Energy Information Administration state-level net generation figures.

To learn more about the long-term projected water and electricity demands of data centers, visit the Q&A section at protectingtaxpayers.org/datacenters

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