**Solar Water Heater Variance Request**

**FORM REQUIREMENTS and INSTRUCTIONS:**

Hawaii licensed architects and mechanical engineers: For more efficient processing of the solar water heater variance request, use the online application at <https://swhv.ehawaii.gov>.

**NOTICE:** The Hawaii State Energy Office has new requirements for acceptance of **gas-tankless instantaneous water heaters**. These requirements are in accordance with the final judgment from Hawaii Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Crabtree in *Hawaii Solar Energy Association and Sierra Club v. DBEDT*, Civil No. 18-1-1398-09 (JPC), April 29, 2019.

1. All solar water heater variance (SWHV) requests received on or after April 29, 2019, must use this form. **Older forms will not be accepted, and the request will be denied.**
2. The SWHV request must be accurately completed, or it will be denied. **There are no refunds for denied or unacceptable SWHV requests.**
3. The SWHV request must be submitted on the letterhead of a Hawaii licensed architect or mechanical engineer, and signed and stamped by the architect or mechanical engineer. Delete “**[MUST BE ON ARCHITECT’S OR MECHANICAL ENGINEER’S LETTERHEAD]**“ on the back page (actual SWHV request form) and print the back page onto appropriate letterhead.
4. There is a required processing fee of **$25 per variance request**. One check can cover multiple SWHV requests if they are all submitted at the same time.

* If you submit the SWHV request via email or fax, you must also submit a check via U.S. Postal Service or hand-delivery to the address below.
* **Make check payable to:** “**State of Hawaii--DBEDT**.” Anything else will cause the check to be rejected.
* Please write the Tax Map Key(s) of the lot(s) on the check.
* Check must be received within 10 business days of receipt of the SWHV request.
* Check must clear within 29 business days of receipt of the SWHV request.
* Failure of check arriving on time or clearing on time will result in denial of the SWHV request.
* **There are no refunds for denied or unacceptable SWHV requests.**

1. Life Cycle Cost Comparison worksheets, if required, must be signed and stamped by a Hawaii licensed architect or mechanical engineer and submitted with the SWHV request.

**SUBMITTAL INFORMATION:**

Submit SWHV request and payment using the information listed below (please put “SWH Variance” in subject box or address).

* *E-mail:*  [DBEDT.SWH-Variance@hawaii.gov](mailto:DBEDT.SWH-Variance@hawaii.gov). Submit $25 per SWHV request via U.S. Postal Service or hand delivery.
* *Fax:*  808-586-2536. Submit $25 per SWHV request via U.S. Postal Service or hand delivery.
* *U.S. Postal Service address:* DBEDT Hawaii State Energy Office

SWH Variance

PO Box 2359

Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

* *Hand delivery:* DBEDT Hawaii State Energy Office, 235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Room 506, Honolulu, Hawaii. Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday. Closed on State and federal holidays.

**SWHV REQUEST DENIAL and UNACCEPTABLE INFORMATION:**

A SWHV request will be denied or unacceptable if:

1. The SWHV request is incomplete or lacking required documentation;
2. The SWHV request is not on a valid form (must be on latest version of the form);
3. The information inputted onto the SWHV request is inadequate or contains errors;
4. The Life Cycle Cost Comparison, if required, is incomplete or incorrect.
5. The Life Cycle Cost Comparison, if required, does not demonstrate that a solar water heater installation is cost-prohibitive because the selected water heating device has a higher life-cycle cost than a solar water heater.
6. Payment is not received within 10 business days from the date the SWHV request is received; or
7. Payment has not cleared within 29 business days from the date the SWHV request is received.

**Payment will not be refunded for denied or unacceptable SWHV requests.**

**[MUST BE ON ARCHITECT’S OR MECHANICAL ENGINEER’S LETTERHEAD]**

**Request for Variance from Hawaii Revised Statutes section 196-6.5, solar water heater system required for each new, single family residential construction.**

***This Solar Water Heater Variance (SWHV) Request must be correct and complete or it will be denied.***

***There are no refunds for denied or unacceptable SWHV requests.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date: |  |

To: Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office, c/o Dean Masai

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submitted By: |  | Return E-mail: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Check Number: |  | *(Check must be payable to* ***“State of Hawaii--DBEDT****.” Write TMK at bottom of check. See front page for more payment information.)* |

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| Location of Property: |  |

*(Address, including street name, development, town, and island, if available on County website.)*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tax Map Key: |  | Building Permit Application  Number *(if available)*: |  |

**Justification for approval: *(check only one option)***

**\_\_\_\_** (1) Solar water heater installation impracticable due to poor solar resource; and/or installation is cost-prohibitive based upon a life cycle cost-benefit analysis that incorporates the average residential utility bill and the cost of the new solar water heater system with a life cycle that does not exceed 15 years. For this option, please attach a correctly completed DBEDT “[Water Heating Life Cycle Cost Comparison](http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/SWHVariance/SWH%20LCC%20Comparison%20templ%204Feb10.xls)” Excel spreadsheet downloaded from: <http://energy.hawaii.gov/resources/solar-water-heater-variance>. Circle one device:

Heat Pump water heater Electric Resistance water heater Gas with Tank water heater

**\_\_\_\_** (2) A renewable energy technology system, as defined in HRS section 235-12.5, is substituted for use as the primary energy source for heating water. Circle the system you’re using:

Photovoltaics Solar Thermal Wind

\_\_\_\_ (3) A gas demand water heater device approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., is installed; provided that at least one other gas appliance is installed in the dwelling. For the purposes of this option, "demand water heater" means a gas-tankless instantaneous water heater that provides hot water only as it is needed. **The following 4 items are required for the gas-tankless instantaneous water heater option and all 4 items must be completed and accurate or this SWHV request will not be accepted**:

\_\_\_\_ (a) This solar water heater variance request is for a new single-family dwelling and the party making the request is the one who will ultimately pay for the energy cost consumption, as required in Act 155, Part VII, section 13 (June 25, 2009).

\_\_\_\_ (b) The applicant has demonstrated that a solar water heater system, regardless of location or circumstance, is not cost effective in the context of a 30-year mortgage term. Attached is a correctly completed DBEDT “Water Heating Life Cycle Cost Comparison” to support this requirement.

\_\_\_\_ (c) The gas-tankless instantaneous water heater to be installed is certified by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Write manufacturer, model name, and model number below. UL certification must be verifiable.

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*Manufacturer of gas tankless water heater Model Name and Number*

\_\_\_\_ (d) List at least one additional gas appliance to be installed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I affirm that I am an architect or mechanical engineer licensed under HRS §464 and attest that to the best of my knowledge this request for a solar water heater variance conforms to the requirements in HRS §196-6.5 and HAR §15-37.**

*(Please place \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*professional stamp below*:) (*Signature of Hawaii Licensed Architect or Mechanical Engineer*)

***For Office Use Only:***

Date Request Rcvd: Date Check Rcvd: Review Deadline: Check Cleared?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **□**Yes **□**No

**□** **APPROVED □** **DENIED** □ **NOT ACCEPTED** Form Correct?

**□**Yes **□**No

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Chief Energy Officer Date

DBEDT, State of Hawaii