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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY RESOURCES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "§196-       Solar water heater system; retrofit.   (a) No  
5 later than January 1, \_\_\_\_\_, each owner of a single-family  
6 residence that has an electrical or gas-powered system for  
7 heating water shall retrofit the residence with a solar water  
8 heater system that meets the standards established pursuant to  
9 section 269-44, unless the energy resources coordinator approves  
10 a variance. A variance shall only be approved if an architect  
11 or engineer licensed under chapter 464 attests that:

12           (1) Installation is impracticable due to poor solar  
13           resource;

14           (2) Installation is cost-prohibitive based upon a life  
15           cycle cost-benefit analysis that incorporates the  
16           average residential utility bill and the cost of the  
17           new solar water heater system with a life cycle that  
18           does not exceed fifteen years;



1       (3) A substitute renewable energy technology system, as  
2       defined in section 235-12.5, is used as the primary  
3       energy source for heating water; or

4       (4) A demand water heater device approved by Underwriters  
5       Laboratories, Inc., is installed; provided that at  
6       least one other gas appliance is installed in the  
7       dwelling. For the purposes of this paragraph, "demand  
8       water heater" means a gas-tankless instantaneous water  
9       heater that provides hot water only as it is needed.

10       (b) A request for a variance shall be submitted to the  
11       energy resources coordinator on an application prescribed by the  
12       energy resources coordinator and shall include, but not be  
13       limited to, a description of the location of the property and  
14       justification for the approval of a variance using the criteria  
15       established in subsection (a). A variance shall be deemed  
16       approved if not denied within thirty working days after receipt  
17       of the variance application.

18       (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from  
19       establishing procedures and standards required to implement this  
20       section.



1        (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude participation  
2 in any utility demand-side management program or public benefits  
3 fund under part VII of chapter 269.

4        (e) The public utilities commission may authorize  
5 electrical utilities to collect a monthly surcharge from  
6 customers who are not in compliance with this section."

7        SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

8        SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Energy Resources; Solar Water Heater Systems; Retrofits

**Description:**

Requires existing single-family homes to be retrofitted with solar water heater systems after a specified date. Authorizes the PUC to permit electrical utilities to collect a surcharge for non-compliance.

