



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – BUILDING DIVISION

COUNTY OF HAWAII - 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Hilo Office (808) 961-8331
Fax (808) 961-8410

Kona Office (808) 327-3520
Fax (808) 327-3509

MEMORANDUM BLD-ADM-015R

Solar Water Heaters

HRS 196-6.5 requires a Solar Water Heating System for all new residential construction built on or after January 1, 2010. A variance may be submitted to Hawaii State Energy Office via their website by only an Architect or Mechanical Engineer licensed to do business in the State of Hawaii and is required to be approved for installation.

For clarity when inspecting a water heating system, the following applies.

1. Solar panels with tank in the residence to solar panels with tank on roof, a Revision Letter is required from the design professional of record. If this is an alteration to an existing residence system without roof sheathing, then the required building installation detail is required also.
2. Change in location of solar panels, a Letter is required from the design professional of record.
3. Change from solar heating system to on-demand (gas or electric), an Approved DBEDT Variance is required with a letter from the design professional. If the on-demand system is electric, then Electrical Contractor Project Declaration with phase of work is required also.
4. Change from solar heating to hybrid system in same location, an Approved DBEDT Variance is required.

Refer to the attached Table to determine how to manage changes to permits issued for Solar Water Heaters.

SOLAR WATER HEATER CHANGES

Type of Change	Revision Workflow + Fee	Architect Letter	Water Heater Variance	Revised Plans	Supplementary Project Declaration
<u>Solar Water Heater Type</u> Roof Panels with Ground Tank changes to Roof Panels with Roof Tank	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit
Solar Roof Panel Location	No	Yes	No	No, Field Verify	No
Solar Water Tank Location	No	No	No	No, Field Verify	No
Solar Water Heater to Electric/Gas Water Heater	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit
Change from traditional solar water heater system to hybrid system in <u>same location</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit
Change from traditional solar water heater system to hybrid system in <u>different location</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit
Solar water heater system, both roof panels with ground tank and roof panels with roof tank, changes to all ground mounted	New Permit Required	Yes	No	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit
Previously approved Hybrid Water Tank (Electric Water Heater with Heat Pump) to an Electric/Gas On-Demand Water System, or vice versa.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If Electric and Plumbing Contractors are different from original Permit