

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS.

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 part I to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§196- Rooftop photovoltaic energy generating system
5 installation required for new single-family residential
6 construction. (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, no building
7 permit shall be issued for a new single-family dwelling that is
8 part of a development of twenty or more dwellings and does not
9 include a rooftop photovoltaic energy generating system, unless
10 the chief energy officer of the Hawaii state energy office
11 approves a variance. A variance application shall only be
12 accepted if submitted by an architect or electrical engineer
13 licensed under chapter 464, who attests that:

14 (1) Installation is impracticable due to poor solar
15 resource; or

16 (2) Installation is cost-prohibitive based upon a life
17 cycle cost-benefit analysis that incorporates the



1 average residential utility bill and the cost of the
2 new rooftop photovoltaic energy generating system,
3 including any specific interconnection costs, with a
4 life cycle of twenty-five years.

5 (b) A request for a variance shall be submitted to the
6 Hawaii state energy office on an application prescribed by the
7 chief energy officer and shall include a description of the
8 location of the property and justification for the approval of a
9 variance using the criteria established in subsection (a). A
10 variance shall be deemed approved if not denied within sixty
11 working days after receipt of the variance application. The
12 chief energy officer shall publicize:

13 (1) All applications for a variance, including cost
14 estimates, within seven calendar days after receipt of
15 the variance application; and

16 (2) The disposition of all applications for a variance
17 within seven calendar days of the determination of the
18 variance application.

19 (c) The chief energy officer of the Hawaii state energy
20 office may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to impose and
21 collect fees to cover the costs of administering variances under



1 this section. The fees, if any, shall be deposited into the
2 energy security special fund established under section 201-12.8.

3 (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude any county from
4 establishing procedures and standards required to implement this
5 section.

6 (e) Nothing in this section shall preclude participation
7 in any utility demand-side management program or public benefits
8 fee program under part VII of chapter 269.

9 (f) For the purposes of this section, "rooftop
10 photovoltaic energy generating system" means any identifiable
11 facility, equipment, apparatus, or the like, that utilizes
12 electricity-generating modules mounted on a rooftop, or near the
13 subject property, that converts solar energy to useful
14 electrical energy for heating, cooling, or reducing the use of
15 other types of energy that are dependent upon fossil fuel for
16 the generation of electricity; provided that the system shall
17 have not less than five kilowatts of generating capacity and
18 shall include an energy storage device, such as a battery."

19 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.
20



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hubbard", is written over a horizontal line.



S.B. NO. 669

Report Title:

HSEO; Rooftop Solar Installation; Rooftop Photovoltaic Energy Generating Systems; New Residential Construction Requirement; Rules

Description:

Beginning 1/1/2026, prohibits the issuance of building permits for new single-family dwellings that are part of a development of twenty or more dwellings and do not include a rooftop photovoltaic energy generating system, unless a variance is granted by the Hawaii State Energy Office. Authorizes the Hawaii State Energy Office to adopt administrative rules.

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

