

**SIMPLIFYING  
PERMITTING *FOR*  
ENHANCED  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

**SPEED TASK FORCE  
ORIENTATION**

BY GREGGOR ILAGAN

**WHAT ARE  
WE DOING?**

# GOD'S WORK

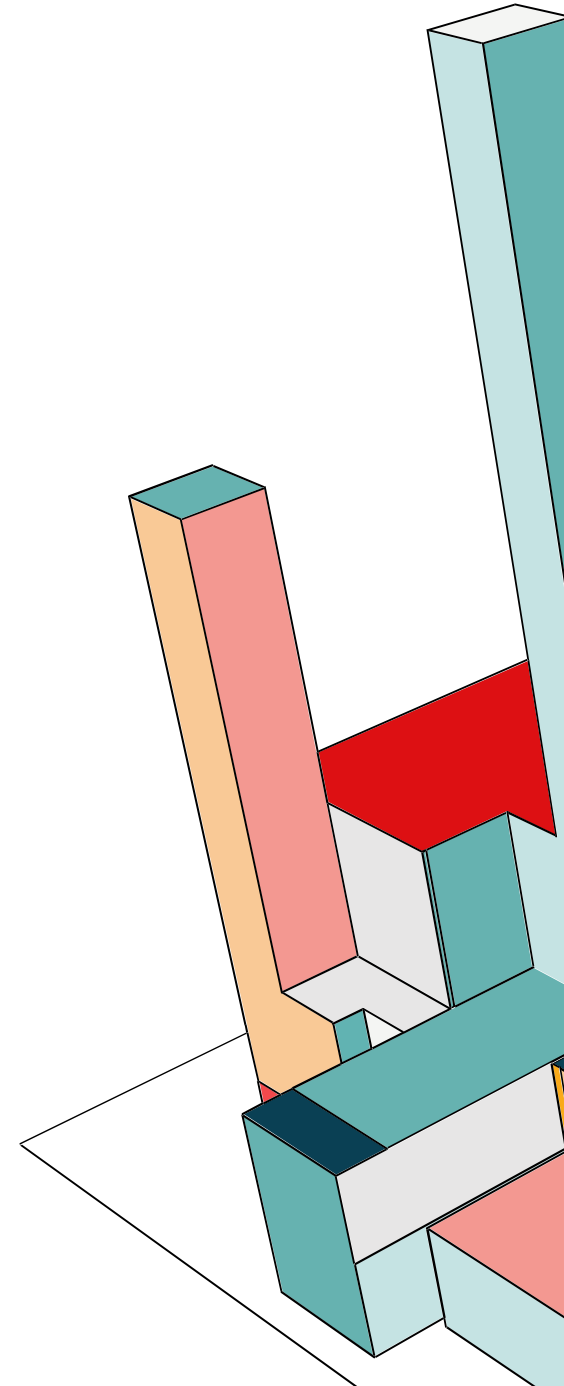


*(This slide without context may be misunderstood)*

**HOW ARE  
WE DOING IT?**

# STEP 1: UNDERSTAND TODAY'S PERMITTING PROCESS

Currently, there are over 40 different types of permits, approvals, and regulatory processes, not limited to building or residential, which also includes areas like agriculture to film, spanning county and state levels, involving many different departments and agencies.



**“YOU BUILD A HOUSE WITH  
ONE BRICK AT A TIME.”**



# **STEP 2: PRIORITIZE A FEW KEY AREAS**

# **FIRST BRICK: BUILDING PERMIT**



# SPEED TASK FORCE GOALS

## Make Permitting Simple

A simpler process while keeping fairness and safety for everyone.

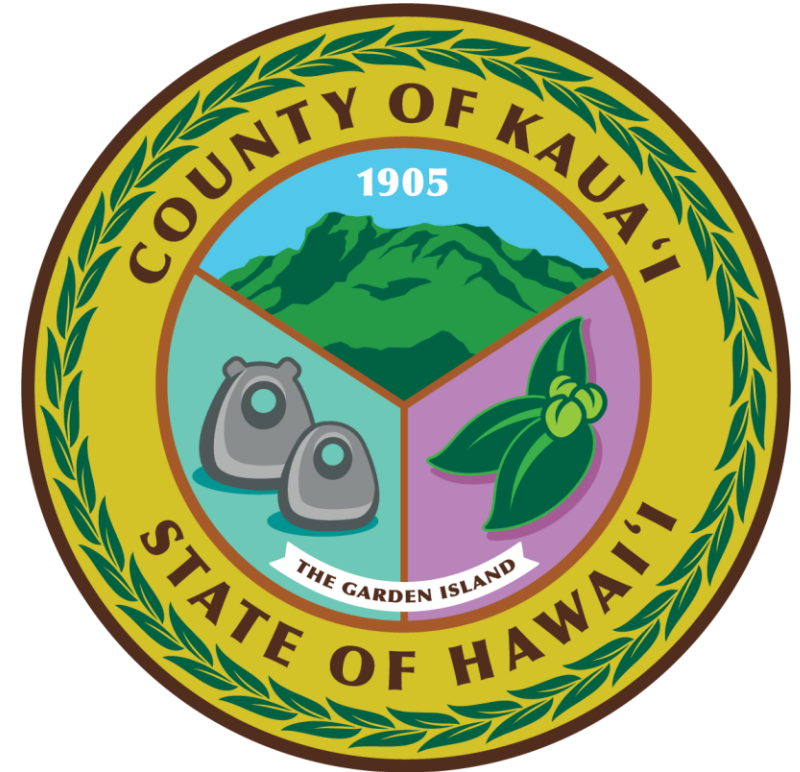
## Enable Tracking

Tracking shows where you are and helps you make better project decisions.

# COUNTY OF KAUAI

Kauai County's permitting software is called ePlan which stands for Electronic Plan Review:

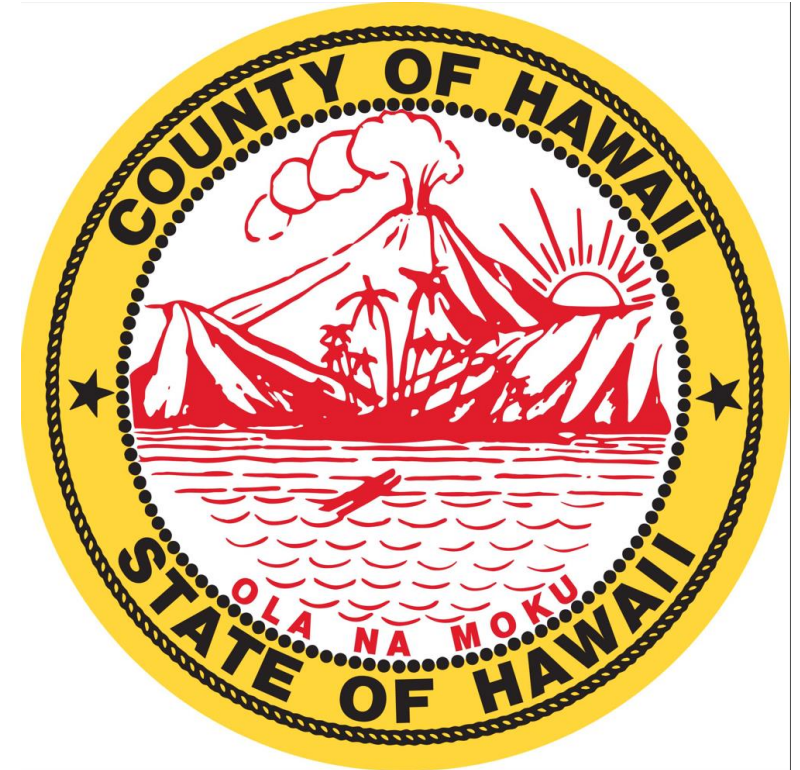
- Launched in April 2013.
- Click2Gov is also used for permitting purposes.
- First County to go 100% paperless.



# COUNTY OF HAWAII

Hawaii County's permitting system is called EPIC which stands for Electronic Permitting and Information Center:

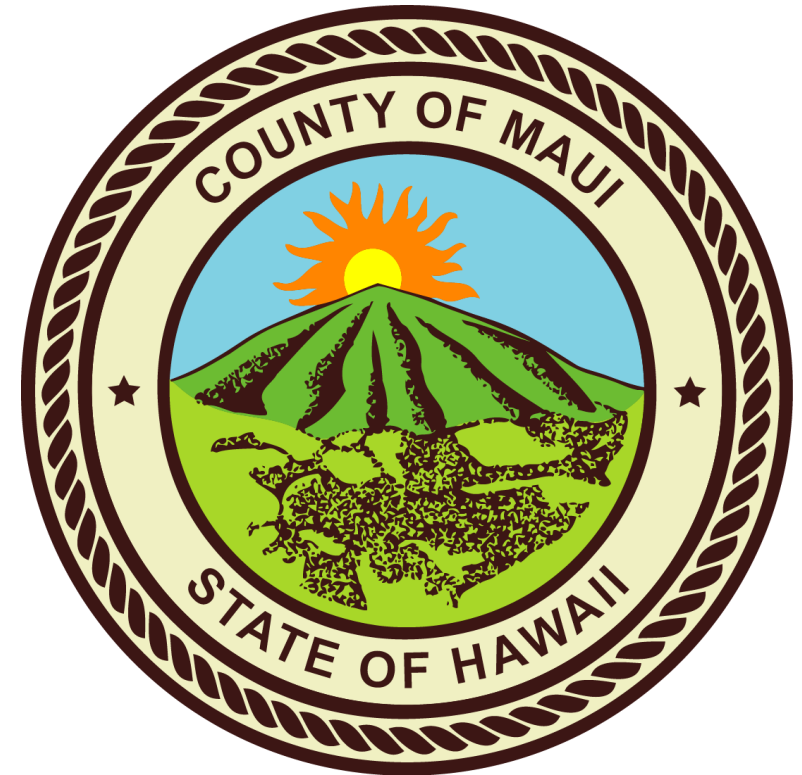
- Launched for public use on July 28, 2021.
- According to data from University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, Hawaii County outpaced other counties over a five-year period.
- Before it was a three-permit (Building, Plumbing, and Electrical) process and now it's a one-permit process.



# COUNTY OF MAUI

Maui County's permitting software is called MAPPS which stands for Maui's Automated Planning and Permitting System:

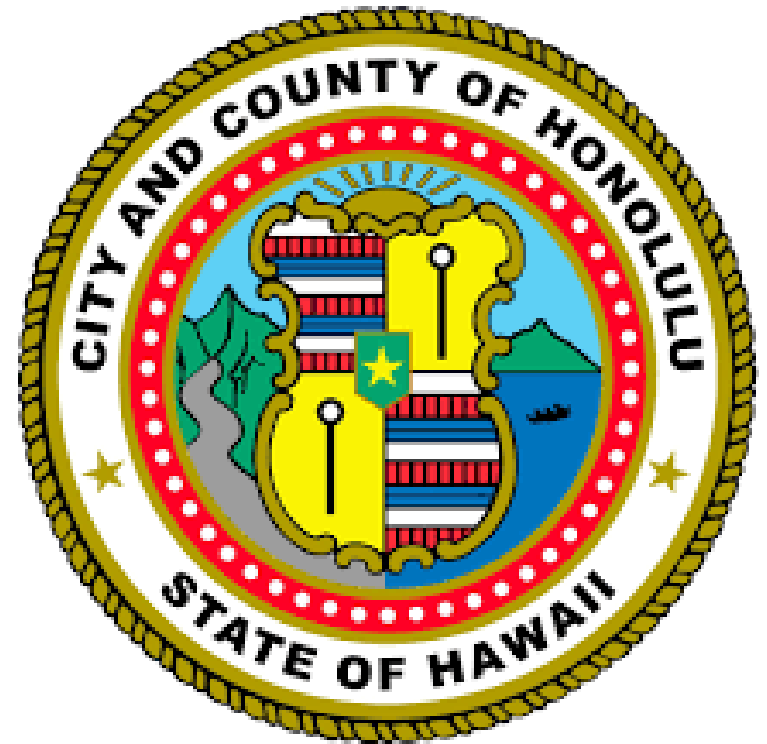
- Launched on April 18, 2022.
- KivaNet was replaced by MAPPS.
- 100% paperless system.



# CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu City and County's new permitting software (HNL Build) will launch soon for applications, tracking and online payment:

- Scheduled to launch August 4, 2025
- Replace an outdated 26-year-old software system.
- \$5.6 million modernization paid by federal fiscal recovery funds.



# **SECOND BRICK: CHAPTER 6E – HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMPLIANCE**



# HAWAII STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION (SHPD)

SHPD is comprised of three branches, Architecture, Archaeology, and History & Culture, and together they collectively strive to preserve and protect Hawai'i's historic identity.

Hawaii Cultural Resource Information System (HICRIS) is SHPD's web-based application. It allows online project review and submission, full GIS integration, access to library materials and real-time collaboration with reviewers.



# HAWAII REVISED STATUTES (HRS) CHAPTER 6E



HRS 6E-10 review: a review of alterations or changes to privately owned properties which are listed on the Hawai'i Register.



HRS 6E-42 review: a review of projects that require a state or county permit, certificate, land use change, subdivision, or other entitlement for use, which may affect a historic property.



HRS 6E-08 review: a review of any state or county project with potential to affect historic properties.

# **THIRD BRICK: INDIVIDUAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM (IWS) PERMIT**



# HAWAII STATE WASTEWATER BRANCH

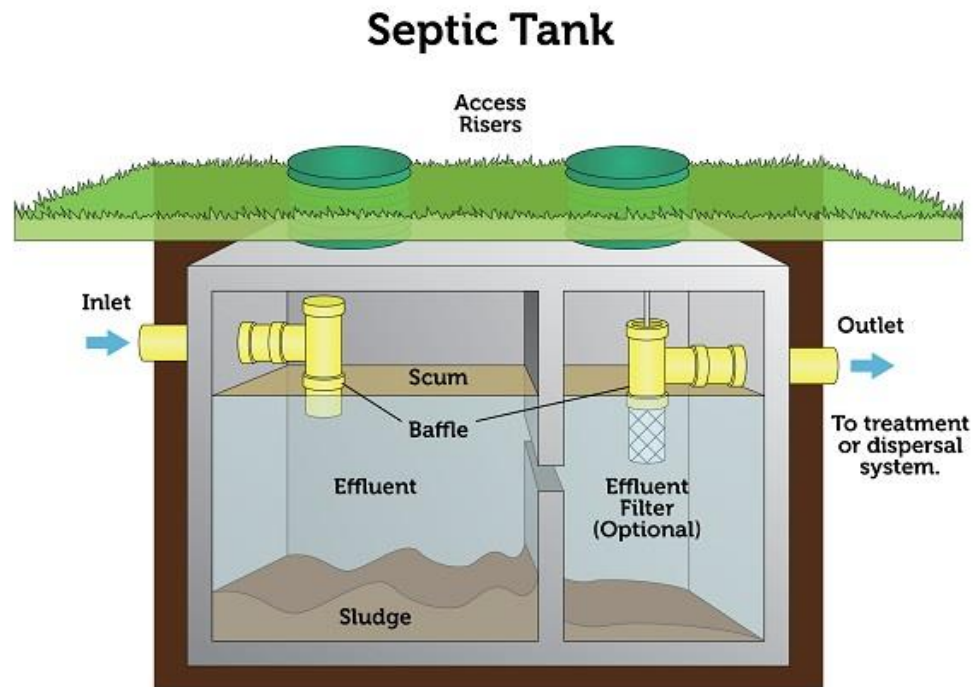
Under Hawaii State Department of Health, the Wastewater Branch administers the individual wastewater systems (IWS). Their mission is to protect public health and the environment.

eHawaii is being used as their online application and payment services for IWS filings.

OneStop System is the app used by engineers to manage each project, but it does not have tracking or public facing features.



# INDIVIDUAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM (IWS)



Please note: The number of compartments in a septic tank vary by state and region.

IWS are on-site systems for treating and disposing wastewater. There are three types of IWSs (septic tank, aerobic treatment unit and cesspool) that are most commonly installed in Hawaii.

# **STEP 3: KEEP PEOPLE IN MIND**

## FOUR (4) USERS TO KEEP IN MIND



New Homeowner

Family Business

Residential Developer

Commercial Developer

# THREE (3) SCENARIOS TO CONSIDER



**New Construction:** Building a new structure, whether commercial or residential, almost always requires a building permit. Depending on the scope of the project, you may also need trade permits, such as electrical or plumbing permits, as well as a demolition permit if you're clearing the site first.



**Renovations:** Significant changes or improvements to an existing building, such as adding or removing walls, altering the electrical or plumbing systems, or performing major remodels, usually require a building permit and potentially trade permits.

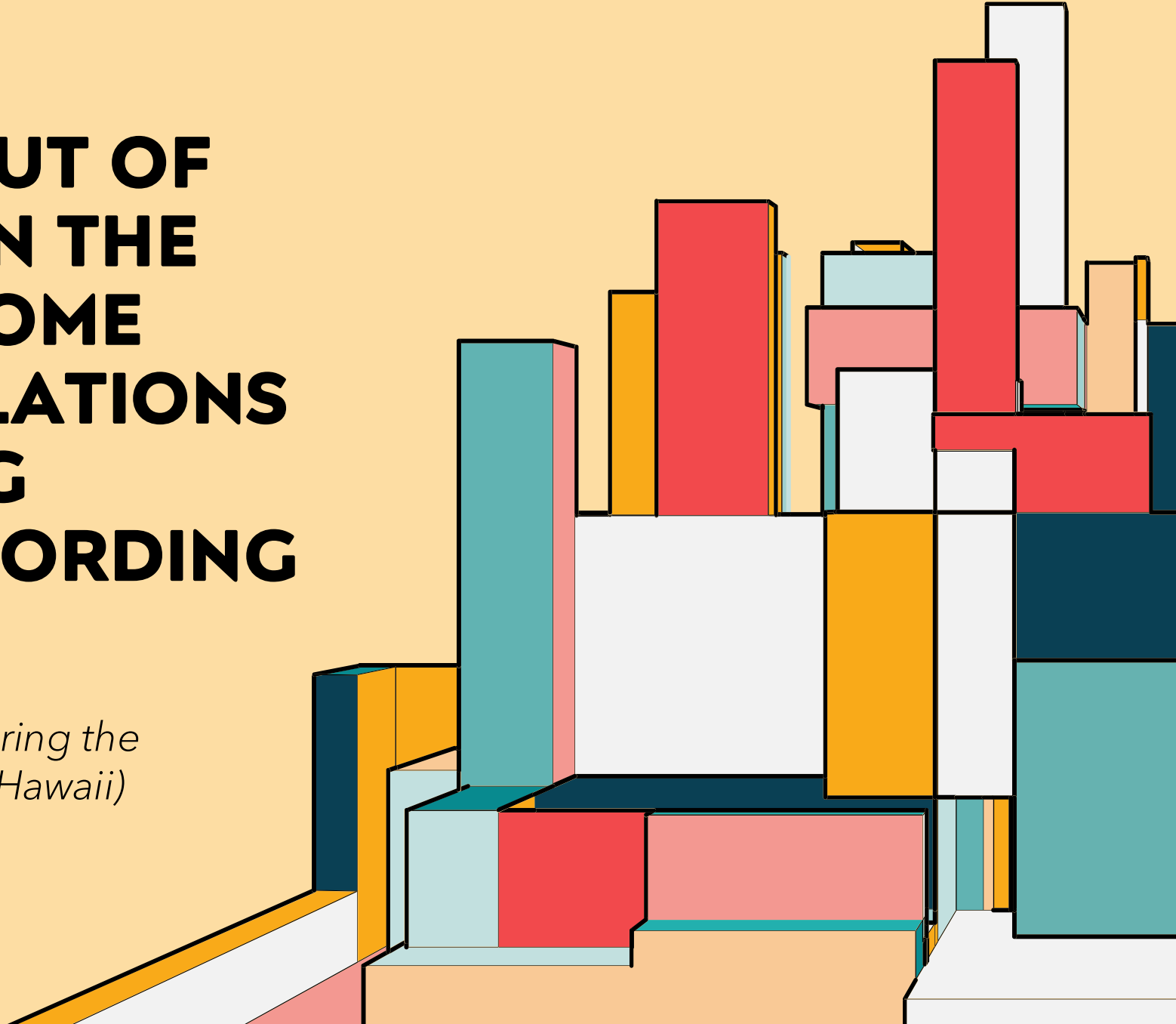


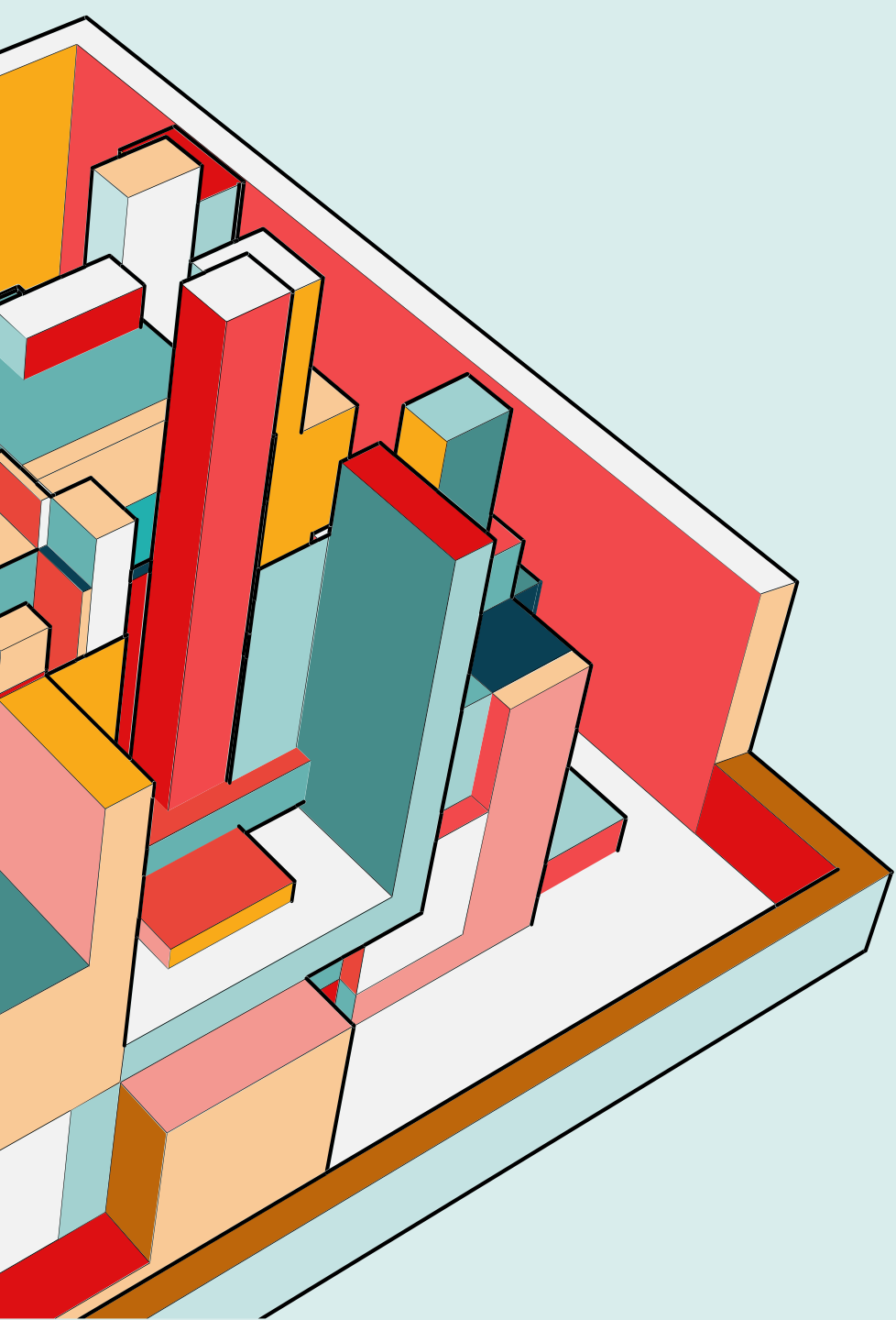
**Conversions:** Converting a space, such as a garage into a living area, involves changing the use of the building and often requires a building permit. You may also need trade permits if the conversion involves adding or altering electrical, plumbing, or mechanical systems.

**WHY ARE  
WE DOING IT?**

# HAWAI'I TOPS OUT OF ALL 50 STATES IN THE MOST BURDENSOME HOUSING REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING PROCESSES ACCORDING TO UHERO

*Reference: (UHERO, 2023, Measuring the Burden of Housing Regulation in Hawaii)*



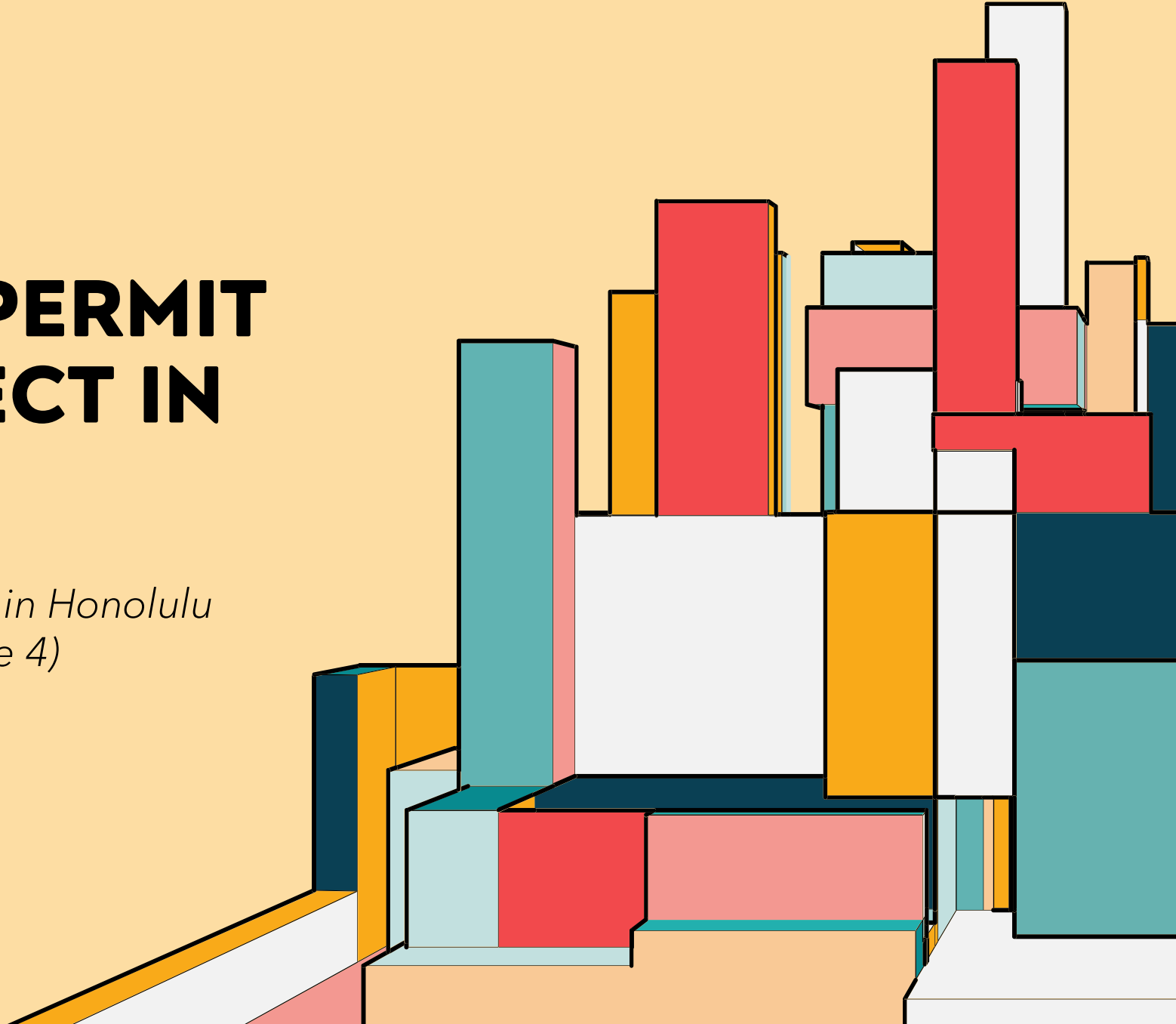


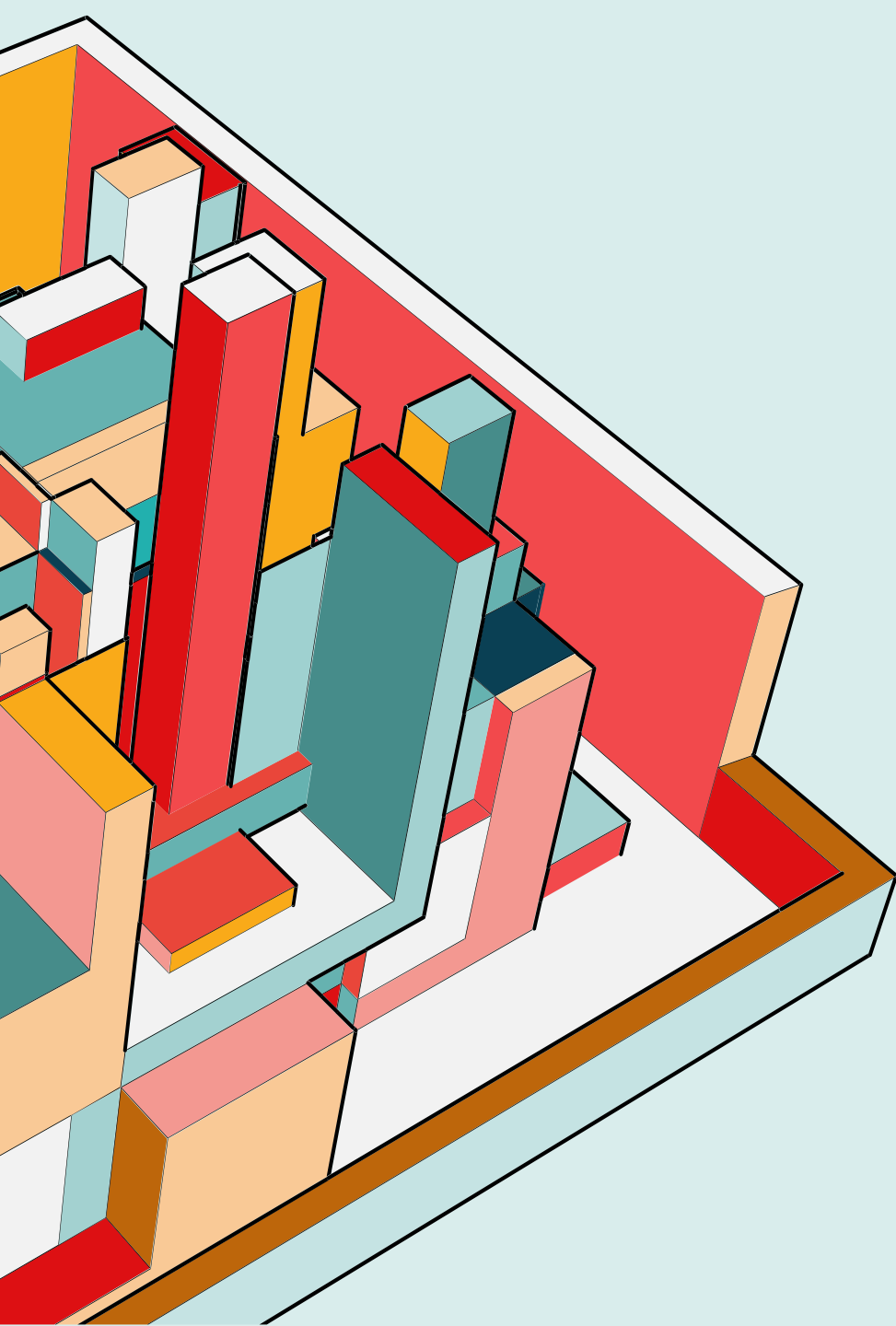
**\$258.7 MILLION DOLLARS  
WAS THE ESTIMATED  
COST IN HONOLULU  
PERMITTING DELAYS  
IN 2022 AND 2023**

*Reference: (DBEDT, 2023. Assessing the Cost  
of Building Permit Delays in Honolulu, page iii)*

# 632 DAYS TO PERMIT A STATE PROJECT IN HONOLULU

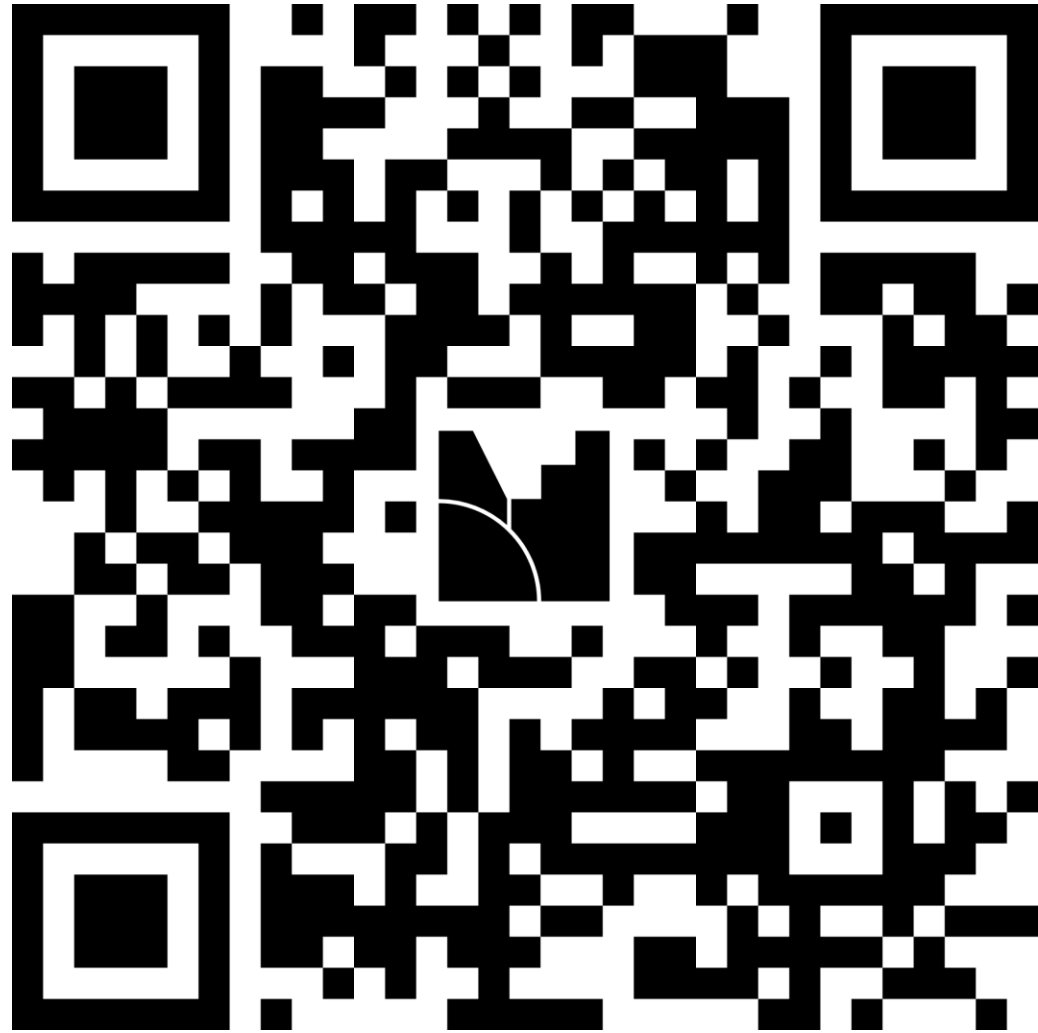
*Reference: (DBEDT, 2025, Trends in Honolulu  
Building Permits 2005-2024, Page 4)*





**HONOLULU PERMIT  
ISSUANCE TIMELINES  
(NON-SOLAR)  
INCREASED 217%  
FROM 86 DAYS (2005)  
TO 268 DAYS (2024)**

Reference: (DBEDT, 2025. *Trends in Honolulu Building Permits 2005-2024*, page 9-10)



# WHY DELAYS HAPPEN?

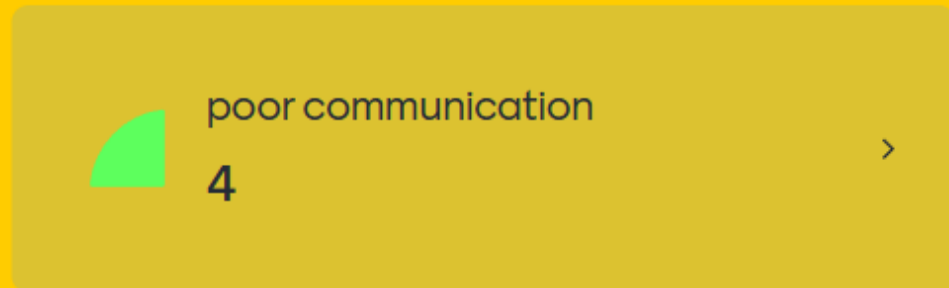
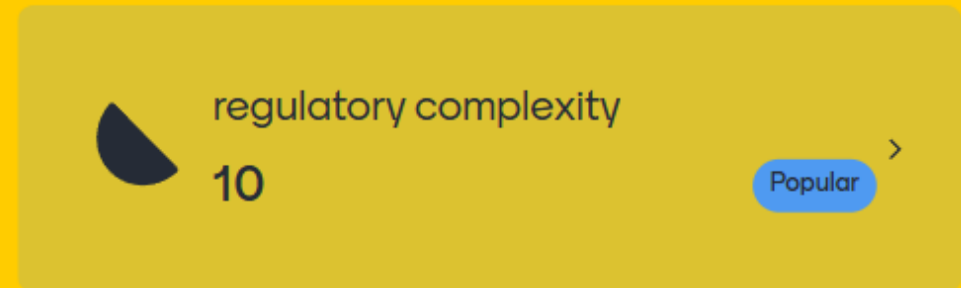
Permitting is not a one-way street.

*Scan the QR Code  
and submit your feedback!*

# Why do you think delays happens?

[Edit on Mentimeter.com](#)

3 groups with votes



Other groups



## Menti

SPEED Task Force - Wh... [Share](#) [Refresh](#)

Choose a slide to present



Applicants Often Blame The  
Government



Government Often Struggle  
With Incomplete Applications




The Truth: It's A Two-way  
Street

# APPLICANT AND GOVERNMENT



**“SPEED REQUIRES CLARITY,  
COMPLETENESS, AND COMMUNICATION  
ON BOTH SIDES.”**

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# EXAMPLES OF APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND WHAT CAUSES DELAYS

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## Applicant Responsibility

- Submit a complete and accurate application
- Follow required formatting and checklists
- Provide all required plans and licensed stamps
- Know what permits are required
- Respond quickly to agency feedback

## What Causes Delays (If Missed)

- Incomplete or inaccurate info leads to rejections
- Missing items stall review process
- Missing or unapproved plans trigger resubmittals
- Applying for the wrong permits wastes time
- Delayed revisions prolong approvals

# EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND WHAT CAUSES DELAYS

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## Government Responsibility

- Clearly explain requirements
- Provide timely, consistent reviews
- Give detailed feedback on corrections
- Coordinate across departments
- Support and guide applicants

## What Causes Delays (If Missed)

- Vague rules confuse applicants
- Backlogs and inconsistent timelines create bottlenecks
- Generic comments cause miscommunication
- Fragmented reviews lead to restarts
- No dashboard or help desk leads to frustration

# THE BALANCE WE NEED



Educate applicants on how to be "permit ready"



Equip government with digital tools and staff support



Set expectations and benchmarks on both sides

**“A BETTER PERMITTING EXPERIENCE  
REQUIRES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.”**

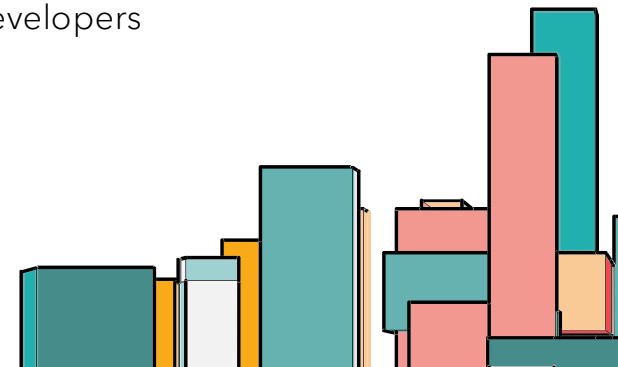


## **SPEED TASK FORCE FORMATION**

The SPEED Task Force was established through [Act 133](#) (SLH 2025) and [House Concurrent Resolution No. 157](#) (HCR 157). The SPEED Task Force chose to conduct its meetings under the Sunshine Law to provide transparency throughout the process. At the conclusion of the task force, a report will be submitted to the Legislature.

# SPEED TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Office of the Governor
- Hawaii State Senate
- Hawaii State House of Representatives
- Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
- Commission on Water Resource Management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Hawaii Community Development Authority
- Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
- Land use commission
- Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
- Hawaii State Energy Office
- Public Utilities Commission
- Small Business Regulatory Review Board
- State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Wastewater Branch of the Department of Health
- State Building Code Council of the Department of Accounting and General Services
- Office of U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda
- Representatives from each of the County Planning and Permitting Departments and County Council
- Hawaii Government Employee Association
- Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters
- New Homeowners
- Family Businesses
- Residential Developers
- Commercial Developers



# SCHEDULE FOR SPEED TASK FORCE

## Discovery

Meeting 1: Presentations

Meeting 2: Long List Recommendations

## Deliberation

Meeting 3: Long List Discussion

Meeting 4: Shorten List of Recommendations

## Decisions

Meeting 5: Final Discussion & Adoption

Future Meetings: New Set of Permits Cycle Begins



**AND IN CLOSING,**

Hawaii is surrounded by the sea, Guided by **SEA**





**Safety**  
**Environment**  
**Affordability**



# MAHALO FOR YOUR TIME!

Share your feedback by scanning the QR code.

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<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/specialcommittee.aspx?comm=stf&year=2025>