

2026 Legislative Session Results

Bill	Main Purpose	SPEED Task Force Recommendation Match
HB1618 – Cesspool Conversions	Establishes a Cesspool Conversion Revolving Loan Fund administered by the Hawai‘i Green Infrastructure Authority to provide low-interest or forgivable loans for eligible homeowners to upgrade, convert, or connect cesspools; appropriates funds and staffing support.	Individual Wastewater Systems / IWS affordability and implementation support. Matches SPEED’s work on removing practical barriers to wastewater compliance by pairing regulatory requirements with financing tools.
HB1710 – Historic Preservation	Authorizes SHPD to conduct phased review for certain private-property projects; revises SHPD concurrence/non-concurrence deadlines; allows projects to move forward in the compliance process when concurrence may be assumed; narrows when certain older single-family dwellings/townhouses trigger historic review.	Chapter 6E / SHPD process reform. Directly supports recommendations to reduce uncertainty, set clearer review timelines, avoid unnecessary review triggers, and make historic preservation review more predictable.
HB1721 – Housing / Expedited Permits	Clarifies insurance, indemnification, and certificate-of-occupancy requirements for expedited permits; requires state or county inspectors to inspect expedited-permit projects; repeals June 30, 2031.	Building permits streamlining and accountability. Aligns with SPEED’s goal to make expedited permitting workable while preserving inspection and safety oversight.
HB2104 – Island Burial Councils	Extends time to fill Island Burial Council vacancies, provides per diem stipends for geographic-region members, and adjusts quorum to a majority of appointed members but no fewer than three.	Cultural/historic review capacity. Supports permitting timelines indirectly by improving Island Burial Council functionality, quorum reliability, and member participation—important for projects involving burial, cultural, or historic-resource review.

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<p>SB2543 – State Construction Projects</p>	<p>Establishes a five-year Office of the State Construction Manager Pilot Program for design review of certain DAGS/DOE state construction projects in counties under 500,000 population; assigns staff to county public works departments to review/approve permit applications; creates a Design Review Special Fund and appropriates funds.</p>	<p>State project permitting / interagency coordination / capacity. Matches recommendations to reduce duplicative review, add dedicated permitting capacity, and create a more centralized state construction review function.</p>
<p>SB2671 – Essential Permitting Positions</p>	<p>Allows eligible county mayors to implement a pilot program to improve speed, accountability, and quality of permit processing through targeted staffing, performance incentives, and interdepartmental competition; authorizes increased pay for key permitting positions; requires goals and quarterly reporting.</p>	<p>Workforce development and retention. Strong match to SPEED’s staffing recommendations: vacancy reduction, recruitment/retention incentives, priority hiring, performance goals, and regular reporting.</p>
<p>SB2673 – Statewide Permitting Data Standard</p>	<p>Requires OPSD, county permitting agencies, and the Chief Data Officer to develop a statewide permitting data standard; requires counties to publish monthly building and civil engineering permit data; requires a legislative report.</p>	<p>Enable tracking / transparency / data standardization. This is the clearest match to SPEED’s tracking recommendations. The bill text specifically cites SPEED findings that counties use incompatible data standards for permit status, key dates, valuations, and categories, making comparisons difficult.</p>

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Overall Summary

Taken together, these bills represent a coordinated 2026 legislative package that advances several core priorities of the SPEED Task Force. **HB1710, HB1721, SB2543, SB2671, and SB2673** most directly address permitting process reform by clarifying review requirements, improving staffing capacity, establishing dedicated review structures, and requiring more consistent permit data collection and reporting.

HB1618 supports the broader permitting framework for individual wastewater systems by creating financing tools to help homeowners comply with wastewater requirements. This may help reduce the risk of a surge in individual wastewater system permit applications immediately before the 2050 compliance mandate.

HB2104 is less directly focused on permit processing; however, it supports the broader historic and cultural review system by strengthening Island Burial Council operations, which can affect project review timelines and coordination.

The strongest recommendation matches are as follows: **SB2673** aligns with tracking and data transparency; **SB2671** aligns with staffing and retention; **HB1710** aligns with Chapter 6E/SHPD review reform; **HB1721** aligns with expedited housing permits; **SB2543** aligns with state construction permit coordination; **HB1618** aligns with individual wastewater system and cesspool implementation barriers; and **HB2104** aligns with cultural review capacity.