
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERMITTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that long delays in the
2 county building permit process continue in Hawaii. The Wharton
3 Residential Land Use Regulatory Index concluded that Hawaii's
4 regulatory environment is significantly more stringent than
5 other surveyed communities across the nation. In particular,
6 the average wait time for building permits in Hawaii is three
7 times longer than the national average. According to the 2023
8 data submitted by the city and county of Honolulu department of
9 planning and permitting, residential development projects take
10 six months while commercial development projects require a year
11 to get a permit approval.

12 The legislature also finds that the approval delays
13 increase building expenses, impede the building of affordable
14 homes for residents, and hamper economic growth of the State.
15 As the current permitting system is ineffective in supporting
16 needs, the legislature finds that a multi-disciplinary approach
17 is needed to speed up the permit approval time. The purpose of



1 this Act is to establish a building permit expeditionary
2 improvement force to assess and remove bottlenecks in the
3 permitting approval process.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of
5 the governor the building permit expeditionary improvement
6 force.

7 (b) The governor shall appoint a member of the public with
8 relevant knowledge and experience in the building industry to
9 serve as the chairperson of the task force.

10 (c) The task force shall consist of no more than fifteen
11 members including but not limited to:

12 (1) The director of each county planning department, or
13 the director's designee;

14 (2) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance
15 and development corporation, or the executive
16 director's designee;

17 (3) The executive director of the Hawaii Building
18 Construction and Trades Council, or the executive
19 director's designee;

20 (4) The president of the Building Industry Association of
21 Hawaii, or the president's designee;



1 (5) The president of the General Contractors Association
2 of Hawaii, or the president's designee;

3 (6) The remaining task force members shall be appointed by
4 the chair within sixty days of this Act's effective
5 date.

6 (d) The task force may consult with individuals and
7 entities including but not limited to the following:

8 (1) Building permitting authorities in other states;

9 (2) Architects, engineers, and construction business
10 owners engaged in the building industry; and

11 (3) Any other professionals recommended by the chair.

12 (e) The members of the task force shall serve without
13 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
14 necessary expenses, including consulting fees and travel
15 expenses, incurred in carrying out their official duties.

16 (f) The task force shall make a comprehensive strategic
17 plan to expedite outstanding permits and improve efficiency of
18 the county processes. The task force may recommend for the
19 temporary suspension of county permitting regulations to the
20 extent necessary to streamline the permitting process subject to
21 the applicable county mayor's approval.



1 (g) The task force shall submit an interim report on the
2 status of its comprehensive strategic plan, including findings,
3 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the regular session of 2025. The task force shall submit a
6 final report of its comprehensive strategic plan, including
7 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
8 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
9 the regular session of 2026.

10 (h) The task force shall cease to exist six months after
11 the time to obtain permit approval meets national standards.

12 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
13 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
14 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
15 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
16 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
17 to be exceeded by \$ or per cent. The reasons for
18 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
19 appropriations made for this Act are necessary to serve the
20 public interest and to meet the needs addressed by this Act.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
4 building permit expeditionary improvement force to carry out its
5 responsibilities outlined in section 2.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
7 governor for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2040

Report Title:

Task force; Permitting; Construction; General Fund Exceeded

Description:

Establishes the building permit expeditionary improvement force to eliminate inefficiencies in the permitting process.
Appropriates funds exceeding the ceiling.

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

HB HMIA 2024-18-01

