

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2700**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2024

RE: S.B. No. 618
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 618 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A STATE PERMITTING OFFICE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the State Permitting Office within the Department of Accounting and General Services to process building and infrastructure permits for construction of state-owned buildings, state roads and highways, and other construction on state lands; and
- (2) Make an appropriation of an unspecified amount of funds for the establishment of the State Permitting Office.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Accounting and General Services and Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that existing permitting procedures are lengthy, causing delays in new construction or major renovations by several years. However, certain state facilities require



immediate attention to protect the safety of public users and state employees. This measure ensures government agencies have timely access to building permits for increased efficiency in infrastructure construction and major renovations.

According to testimony received by your Committee, although the State has the ability to exempt itself from the county-driven permitting process, the Department of Accounting and General Services has used the exemption on a very limited basis, because and doing so may create more problems than benefits, such as the inability to obtain liability insurance or county services, which include emergency first response; water, wastewater, and other infrastructure connection; and trash collection.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting section 2 of this measure, which would have established the State Permitting Office and replacing it with language that requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a five-year State Permit Pilot Program to process building and infrastructure permits for the construction of state-owned buildings, state roads and highways, and other construction on state lands in the wildfire disaster declaration area;
- (2) Deleting language that would have made an appropriation of an unspecified amount of funds for the establishment of the State Permitting Office, and replacing it with language that appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Department of Accounting and General Services for the establishment and administration of the first fiscal year of the State Permit Pilot Program;
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.



Your Committee respectfully requests that, should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, that it consider language that requires the pursuit of federal disaster funds in response to the destruction from the August 2023 Maui wildfires, similar to that of Kauai from Hurricane Iniki in 1992. Your Committee notes that federal disaster funding should assist the county by providing resources to lessen the permit load and allow the county to concentrate on other county projects and private permitting.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 618, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 618, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Government
Operations,




ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Government Operations
GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 618	Committee Referral: GVO, WAM	Date: 2/13/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes