
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERMITS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that certain land or
2 water use activities or construction projects may require
3 permits issued by agencies and authorities through the
4 facilitated application process, which is overseen by the
5 department of business, economic development, and tourism.

6 The legislature further finds that the facilitated
7 application process can be cumbersome and subject applicants to
8 lengthy waiting periods. The legislature additionally finds
9 that a backlog in applications can lead to delays in housing,
10 industrial, and commercial projects, stifling economic
11 development in the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish
13 specific deadlines within the facilitated application process
14 and require the department of business, economic development,
15 and tourism to establish certain resources and processes to help
16 streamline permit applications.



1 SECTION 2. Section 201-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 "(c) The procedure shall be as follows:

4 (1) An applicant for two or more state permits may apply
5 in writing to the department requesting a facilitated
6 application process for the consideration of the
7 application. The written request shall include
8 sufficient data about the proposed project for the
9 department to determine which other agencies or
10 authorities may have jurisdiction;

11 (2) ~~[Upon receiving]~~ Within ten days of approving a
12 written request for the facilitated application
13 process, the department shall notify all federal,
14 state, and county agencies or authorities that the
15 department determines may have jurisdiction over part
16 or all of the proposed project, and require those
17 state agencies or authorities and invite those county
18 and federal agencies or authorities to participate in
19 the facilitated application process;

20 (3) The applicant and each agency or authority required or
21 agreeing to participate in the facilitated application



process shall designate a representative to serve on
the facilitated application review team;

(4) Any state agency or authority designated by the
department as a party to an application review that is
not able to participate, shall submit an explanation,
in writing, to the department as to the reasons and
circumstances for noncompliance;

(5) The representatives of the agencies, authorities, and
the applicant may develop and sign a joint agreement
among themselves identifying the members of the
facilitated application review team, specifying the
regulatory and review responsibilities of each
government agency and setting forth the
responsibilities of the applicant, and establishing a
timetable for regulatory review, the conduct of
necessary hearings, preparation of an environmental
impact statement if necessary, and other actions
required to minimize duplication and coordinate the
activities of the applicant, agencies, and
authorities;



1 (6) ~~[Each]~~ Within forty-five days of receiving
2 notification from the department, each agency or
3 authority shall issue its own permit or approval based
4 upon its own jurisdiction~~[=]~~; provided that the
5 department may adjust this deadline based on the
6 complexity of the project. The facilitated
7 application process shall not affect or invalidate the
8 jurisdiction or authority of any agency under existing
9 law; and

10 (7) The applicant shall apply directly to each federal or
11 county agency that does not participate in the
12 facilitated application process."

13 SECTION 3. Section 201-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "~~[=]~~**\$201-64[=]** **Streamlining activities.** (a) The
16 department may:

17 (1) Monitor permits on an ongoing basis to determine the
18 source of inefficiencies, delays, and duplications and
19 the status of permits in progress;

20 (2) Pursue the implementation of streamlining measures
21 including, but not necessarily limited to, those



1 measures defined in consultation with affected state
2 agencies, county central coordinating agencies, and
3 members of the public; and

4 (3) Design applications, checklists, and other forms
5 essential to the implementation of approved
6 streamlining measures in coordination with involved
7 state and county regulatory agencies, and members of
8 the public.

9 (b) The department shall establish:

10 (1) A single digital portal that allows applicants and
11 agencies to upload applications, permits, and relevant
12 documents and track the status of applications in real
13 time;

14 (2) A fast-track process to expedite approval of low-
15 impact projects;

16 (3) A permit by rule process that allows applications for
17 low-impact projects to be reviewed by a licensed
18 design professional; and

19 (4) Criteria to classify low-impact projects; provided
20 that the criteria shall consider environmental and
21 community impacts.



1 (c) For the purposes of this section "licensed design
2 professional" means a professional engineer, architect,
3 surveyor, or landscape architect licensed under chapter 464."

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2026-2027 for the department of businesses, economic
9 development, and tourism to establish the digital portal and
10 other processes required by section 3 of this Act.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
13 of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

17
INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 22 2025



H.B. NO. 1255

Report Title:

Permits; Facilitated Application Process; DBEDT; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes specific deadlines within the facilitated application process and requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to establish certain resources and processes to help streamline permit applications. Appropriates funds.

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