

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the timely review of  
2 building and civil engineering permits is critical to addressing  
3 the State's housing shortage, enabling renewable energy  
4 projects, and supporting economic development.

5       The legislature further finds that the governor's emergency  
6 proclamation on housing and the subsequent findings of the  
7 simplifying permitting for enhanced economic development task  
8 force have highlighted significant challenges in tracking  
9 permitting performance. The task force's building permit  
10 permitted interaction group found that counties use incompatible  
11 data standards to represent permit status, key dates,  
12 valuations, and categories, which complicates meaningful  
13 comparisons and shared learning. The group further suggested  
14 that the counties and the State work toward common data  
15 standards and reporting templates for building permits,  
16 including more granular status categories that distinguish



1 delays attributable to applicants from delays attributable to  
2 agencies.

3       The legislature finds that while some permit data is  
4 currently available, it is often difficult to access or is  
5 provided in formats that do not allow for routine aggregation,  
6 analysis, or cross-county comparison. Requiring counties to  
7 publish permit data in a standardized, machine-readable format  
8 will reduce the administrative burden of ad hoc information  
9 requests, support customer service improvements, and foster  
10 transparency and accountability.

11       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12       (1) Establish a statewide permitting data standard  
13           developed collaboratively by the office of planning  
14           and sustainable development and the chief data officer  
15           in consultation with the counties; and
- 16       (2) Require each county to publish monthly updates of  
17           building and civil engineering permit data in  
18           accordance with that standard.

19       SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
20 by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1        "§46-        Publicly accessible permit data; monthly updates;  
2 statewide standard. (a) Each county shall host and maintain on  
3 its website a publicly accessible dataset containing data on all  
4 building and civil engineering permit applications administered  
5 by the county.

6        (b) The dataset required by subsection (a) shall:

7        (1) Be updated at least monthly;

8        (2) Be published in a machine-readable format, such as  
9        comma-separated values (CSV) or javascript object

10       notation (JSON); and

11       (3) Include a data dictionary that defines each field and  
12       the permitted values for any coded field.

13       (c) To ensure statewide comparability, each record in the  
14 dataset required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum,  
15 the following fields and defined field names, which shall be  
16 populated in accordance with the statewide permitting data  
17 standard established under subsection (f):

18       (1) The permit number ("PermitNum");

19       (2) A detailed description of work permitted  
20       ("Description");



- 1        (3) The date on which the permit application was  
2        submitted, in YYYY-MM-DD format ("AppliedDate");
- 3        (4) The date on which the permit was issued, if  
4        applicable, in YYYY-MM-DD format ("IssuedDate");
- 5        (5) The date on which the permit was completed or  
6        finalized, if applicable, in YYYY-MM-DD format  
7        ("CompletedDate");
- 8        (6) A raw value indicating the current status of the  
9        permit ("StatusCurrent");
- 10       (7) The original property street address line 1, as stored  
11       by the county ("OriginalAddress1");
- 12       (8) The original property street address line 2, as stored  
13       by the county, if applicable ("OriginalAddress2");
- 14       (9) The original property city, as stored by the county  
15       ("OriginalCity");
- 16       (10) The original property state, as stored by the county  
17       ("OriginalState");
- 18       (11) The original property zip code, as stored by the  
19       county ("OriginalZip");
- 20       (12) A unique identifier for the county publishing the  
21       record ("Jurisdiction");



1     (13) A raw value indicating whether the permit is for  
2     residential or non-residential property  
3     ("PermitClass");  
4     (14) A standardized value for the permit class, as defined  
5     by the statewide permitting data standard  
6     ("PermitClassMapped");  
7     (15) A standardized value for the current status, as  
8     defined by the statewide permitting data standard  
9     ("StatusCurrentMapped");  
10    (16) A raw value indicating whether the permitted work is  
11    new construction or work on an existing structure  
12    ("WorkClass");  
13    (17) A standardized value for the work class, as defined by  
14    the statewide permitting data standard  
15    ("WorkClassMapped");  
16    (18) A raw value indicating the permit type in abbreviated  
17    or shorthand format ("PermitType");  
18    (19) A standardized value for the permit type, as defined  
19    by the statewide permitting data standard  
20    ("PermitTypeMapped");



1     (20) A longer description of the permit type  
2         ("PermitTypeDesc");  
3     (21) The date the permit record was last updated in the  
4         county's system of record, in YYYY-MM-DD format  
5         ("StatusDate");  
6     (22) The total square footage relevant to the permit  
7         ("TotalSqFt");  
8     (23) The uniform resource locator to the county's public  
9         web page for the permit, if applicable ("Link");  
10    (24) The latitude of the property in decimal degrees  
11         ("Latitude");  
12    (25) The longitude of the property in decimal degrees  
13         ("Longitude");  
14    (26) The estimated value of the project, if known  
15         ("EstProjectCost");  
16    (27) The number of housing units authorized or affected by  
17         the permit, if any ("HousingUnits");  
18    (28) The parcel identifier used for tax assessment  
19         purposes, including the tax map key, if available  
20         ("PIN");



1     (29) The primary company name of the contractor, if  
2     applicable ("ContractorCompanyName");

3     (30) A raw value indicating the contractor's trade, if  
4     applicable ("ContractorTrade");

5     (31) A standardized value for the contractor's trade, as  
6     defined by the statewide permitting data standard, if  
7     applicable ("ContractorTradeMapped");

8     (32) The contractor license number, if applicable  
9     ("ContractorLicNum");

10    (d) In addition to the fields and field names provided in  
11    subsection (c), each record shall include the following fields  
12    and defined field names, if the county's system of record  
13    captures the underlying information, to support statewide  
14    measurement of permitting timelines and responsibility for any  
15    delays:

16    (1) The date the application was accepted for processing  
17    or deemed complete, in YYYY-MM-DD format  
18    ("AcceptedDate");

19    (2) The permitting agency or county department  
20    administering the permit, as stored by the county  
21    ("PermittingAgency");



1       (3) The final disposition of the application, limited to:  
2       approved, denied, withdrawn, expired, or voided  
3       ("FinalDisposition");

4       (4) The date of the final disposition, in YYYY-MM-DD  
5       format ("FinalDispositionDate"); and

6       (5) The date the permit was last placed on hold or  
7       otherwise paused, in YYYY-MM-DD format ("HoldDate").

8       (e) Each county shall cooperate with the other counties,  
9       the office of planning and sustainable development, and the  
10       chief data officer to ensure that the statewide permitting data  
11       standard established under subsection (f) uses common  
12       definitions, common field names, and common standardized values  
13       that allow for accurate cross-county comparison. Each county  
14       shall:

15       (1) Designate a permitting data liaison responsible for  
16       coordinating implementation of this section;

17       (2) Provide, upon request, the county's permitting data  
18       dictionary, code lists, and documentation needed to  
19       map county-specific values to standardized values; and

20       (3) Maintain and publish, alongside the dataset required  
21       by subsection (a), a crosswalk that maps each





1           county-specific coded value used in fields required by  
2           subsection (c) and (d) to the corresponding  
3           standardized value.

4           (f) The office of planning and sustainable development, in  
5           collaboration with the chief data officer, shall establish,  
6           publish, manage, and periodically update a statewide permitting  
7           data standard to implement this section. The statewide  
8           permitting data standard shall:

9           (1) Be designed for routine monthly publication and public  
10           use;

11           (2) Incorporate, at a minimum, the required and  
12           recommended fields described in the Building and Land  
13           Development Specification core permit dataset  
14           requirements;

15           (3) Define each field required by subsections (c) and (d),  
16           including data types, required formats, and allowable  
17           values;

18           (4) Establish standardized value sets for the fields  
19           ending in "Mapped", including status categories that  
20           distinguish, at a minimum, between delays attributable  
21           to an applicant and delays attributable to an agency;



1       (5) Specify how a county shall represent missing or  
2       inapplicable values; and

3       (6) Include implementation guidance intended to minimize  
4       the administrative burden on the counties.

5       (g) The statewide permitting data standard required by  
6       subsection (f) shall be published no later than July 1, 2026.  
7       Each county shall comply with the statewide permitting data  
8       standard beginning no later than January 1, 2027."

9       SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the  
10      convening of the regular session of 2027, the office of planning  
11      and sustainable development, in collaboration with the chief  
12      data officer, shall submit a report to the legislature  
13      describing:

14      (1) The statewide permitting data standard published  
15      pursuant to this Act;

16      (2) The consultation process used to develop the standard,  
17      including participation by the counties;

18      (3) Any barriers to county implementation, including  
19      technology constraints, staffing, or legal barriers;  
20      and



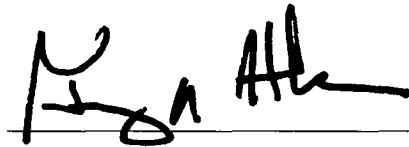
1       (4) Any proposed legislation or administrative actions  
2           needed to improve statewide permitting data quality  
3           and comparability.

4       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Allen", is written over a horizontal line.



# S.B. NO. 2673

**Report Title:**

Counties; OPSD; Chief Data Officer; Building Permits; Civil Engineering Permits; Statewide Permitting Data Standard; Report

**Description:**

Requires a statewide permitting data standard developed collaboratively by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Chief Data Officer. Requires each county to publish monthly updates of building and civil engineering permit data in accordance with that standard. Requires report.

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

