

JAN 23 2026

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 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.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

Karen Ahn



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.

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