

JAN 28 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RECORDS.

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

1       SECTION 1. Section 502-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

3       "(d) On receipt for recordation of a transfer or separate  
4 description document concerning a lot in a subdivision, the  
5 registrar shall accept and file the document with:

6       (1) A metes and bounds description, either solely or as  
7 part of the document; and

8       (2) A county certified plat map, unless the land is being  
9 deregistered pursuant to part II of chapter 501[~~and~~

10 ~~(3) A letter from a licensed professional surveyor,~~  
11 ~~certifying that the metes and bounds description~~  
12 ~~conforms to the accompanying plat map].~~

13       The document shall otherwise comply with the requirements  
14 for recordation under this section. Any parcel created or  
15 subdivided before the effective date of the subdivision laws of  
16 the respective counties is exempt from the provisions of this  
17 subsection.

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1 (e) For checking the survey and plan as to form and  
2 mathematical correctness, the department shall charge [~~\$2-an~~  
3 ~~hour~~] a fee pursuant to rules adopted by the department of  
4 accounting and general services, and shall require the owner of  
5 the land to deposit the [~~estimated~~] cost thereof before [~~making~~  
6 ~~such check.~~] approving the survey and plan."

7 SECTION 2. Section 502-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§502-18 Description; lot subdivisions.** A metes and  
10 bounds description of the exterior boundaries of the parcel or  
11 parcels of land sought to be registered as a file plan shall be  
12 written upon the plan, or printed or typewritten on unruled good  
13 quality white paper 11 inches long by 8 1/2 inches wide and  
14 shall be filed [~~in duplicate~~] with the file plan. The metes and  
15 bounds description shall be dated and signed by the licensed  
16 professional surveyor making the field survey, or under whose  
17 supervision the field survey was executed. If the land sought  
18 to be registered as a file plan is being deregistered pursuant  
19 to part II of chapter 501, the metes and bounds description  
20 shall be dated and signed by the licensed professional surveyor  
21 making the file plan, or under whose supervision the file plan  
22 was made. The boundaries of the land platted shall be described

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1 as running from left to right (clockwise) and the azimuth system  
2 shall be used in designating the courses of the survey with zero  
3 or 360 degrees at due South; 90 degrees at due West; 180 degrees  
4 at due North; 270 degrees at due East. Any printed or  
5 typewritten description filed separately with the file plan  
6 shall be recorded in the registry system and the book and page  
7 or document number thereof noted on the file plan. Expense of  
8 recordation shall be charged to the owner. The initial point in  
9 the description shall clearly show the connection with the  
10 government triangulation system. All outside corners of the  
11 tract shall be substantially marked by monuments in the ground,  
12 where practicable; unless the land is being deregistered  
13 pursuant to part II of chapter 501. In all cases where tracts  
14 of land are subdivided into lots, with the intention of  
15 conveying separate lots by lot number and reference to the plat,  
16 it is necessary to show the true azimuths and lengths of all  
17 principal lines and the lot areas. A sufficient number of  
18 durable monuments shall be placed in the ground so as to  
19 accurately identify each lot, unless the land is being  
20 deregistered pursuant to part II of chapter 501. Any lands  
21 being deregistered pursuant to part II of chapter 501 shall not  
22 subdivide or consolidate when registering as a file plan[~~and~~

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1 ~~only contiguous parcels shall be shown on the same plan].~~ Only  
2 contiguous parcels shall be shown on the same plan unless the  
3 department of accounting and general services determines that an  
4 exception would be appropriate."

5 SECTION 3. Section 502-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§502-19 Plans on** ~~[tracing cloth,]~~ tangible medium; size;  
8 **scale.** All plans ~~[must]~~ shall be on ~~[tracing cloth of good~~  
9 ~~quality,]~~ a tangible medium of good quality, approved by the  
10 department of accounting and general services, and shall be of  
11 one of the following sizes, the figures indicating inches: 10 x  
12 15; 15 x 21; 21 x 32; 30 x 36; 36 x 42; or ~~[42, 48, or 54]~~ 36  
13 wide without restriction as to length; which plans shall be  
14 prepared and drawn according to ~~[some]~~ one of the following  
15 scales: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600,  
16 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, ~~[or]~~ 5000, or 6000 feet to an inch."

17 SECTION 4. Section 502-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§502-20 New maps for old.** The registrar ~~[at such times~~  
20 ~~when the original tracings of]~~ shall forward filed plans and  
21 land court maps on file in the bureau of conveyances~~[,]~~ to the  
22 department of accounting and general services, when the original

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1 tracings of the plans or maps are found to be in [~~such~~] the  
2 condition that satisfactory [~~blueprint~~] copies thereof cannot be  
3 made[, ~~shall forward any such map or plan to the department of~~  
4 ~~accounting and general services of the State~~], with the request  
5 that another [~~tracing~~] copy of good quality thereof be made.  
6 The department, on receipt of the request and map or plan, shall  
7 prepare another [~~tracing~~] copy thereof[, ~~and shall~~] on a  
8 tangible medium of good quality, certify that same is a true  
9 copy of the original on file in the bureau of conveyances, and  
10 [~~shall~~] file the same[, ~~together with two certified blueprint~~  
11 ~~copies~~], with the registrar. Any such certified [~~tracing~~] copy  
12 of a map or plan shall thereafter be regarded for all purposes  
13 as the original."

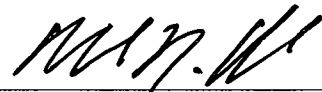
14 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



19

BY REQUEST

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**Report Title:**

DAGS; Plans; Land Survey; Subdivision; Maps

**Description:**

Removes outdated requirements and formats for plans filed with the registrar's office. Updates permissible drawing scales used in plans. Clarifies that statutory filing fees are set pursuant to the rules adopted by the Department of Accounting and General Services. Repeals obsolete terms such as "blueprint." Authorizes the Department of Accounting and General Services to approve the format of plans.

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

## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Accounting and General Services

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RECORDS.

PURPOSE: To remove outdated requirements and formats for plans filed with the Registrar's Office of the Bureau of Conveyances; update the permissible drawing scales used in plans; clarify that statutory filing fees are set pursuant to rules adopted by the department; repeal obsolete terms such as "blueprint"; and authorize the Land Survey Division of the department to approve the format of plans.

MEANS: Amend sections 502-17(d) and (e), 502-18, 502-19, and 502-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: This bill is necessary to modernize chapter 502, HRS, by removing outdated filing requirements and aligning statutory provisions with current professional practices. Currently, plans filed with the registrar's office must be plotted on mylar tracings, which are both costly and increasingly difficult to acquire. Permitting plans to be plotted on a tangible medium of good quality (e.g., simple bond paper) keeps costs down for the public, facilitates faster reviews and approvals, and ensures flexibility as technology evolves.

The statute also requires duplicate submissions of plans and metes and bounds descriptions as well as certification letters verifying conformity between descriptions and plat maps. These duplicates and certification letters are unnecessary because the original submittals are always subject to revision during the division's review process. Eliminating them will reduce waste and streamline the filing process without compromising accuracy or oversight.

In addition, the existing statutory filing fee schedule is outdated and inconsistent with the fee schedule adopted in chapter 3-40, Hawaii Administrative Rules. Updating the statute is necessary to provide clarity and uniformity.

Moreover, the bill provides the division with greater discretion to approve plans in unusual or special circumstances and updates permissible scales for plan preparation. These changes will enhance efficiency, improve flexibility, and ensure format requirements keep pace with current mapping and surveying standards.

Finally, the bill removes references to blueprints, which, together with the blueprinting process, are obsolete. Today, the department produces reproductions of original maps and plans using digital copies that are created and maintained specifically for reproduction and electronic distribution.

Impact on the public: This bill will reduce costs by removing outdated requirements for scarce and expensive tracing cloth. Additionally, it will simplify plan preparation and review process by increasing the number of permissible drawing scales and, where appropriate, allowing non-contiguous parcels to be shown on a single plan.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The bill will provide the division greater discretion to address special circumstances and reduce the need for piecemeal plan submissions. It will also eliminate conflicts between the department's administrative rules and the statutory fee schedule, while lessening delays caused by applicants' difficulties in complying with obsolete material requirements.

GENERAL FUND:

None.



OTHER FUNDS:               None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION:

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES:               None.

EFFECTIVE DATE:       Upon approval.