
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERMITTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Simplifying
2 Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) task force
3 was established pursuant to Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii
4 2025. The SPEED task force brought together various state and
5 county agencies and stakeholders to address issues related to
6 obtaining permits for housing, infrastructure, and other
7 projects. The legislature further finds that the SPEED task
8 force is responsible for identifying actions taken, challenges
9 encountered, and legislative measures needed to facilitate,
10 expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental permitting
11 processes.

12 In its initial phase, the SPEED task force split into three
13 permitted interaction groups, each focused on a specific, high-
14 impact segment of the permitting system. The SPEED task force
15 then submitted to the legislature a December 2025 final report
16 of the permitted interaction groups, representing a combined
17 report of the three permitted interaction groups, which outlined



1 findings regarding existing actions and persistent challenges
2 and presented initial recommendations for legislative and
3 administrative measures to improve permitting processes
4 statewide.

5 The December 2025 final report identifies lengthy waiting
6 times as a common issue in the permitting process and finds that
7 applicants, staff, and the process itself share responsibility
8 for these delays. However, a major delay in the process occurs
9 before state and county personnel can even begin their
10 substantive technical review, in the form of incomplete or
11 incorrect submissions, misrouted applications, and poor quality
12 plans. The final report suggests that a digital system or
13 intake portal could be used to prevent the submission of
14 incomplete applications and standardize data across
15 jurisdictions. The legislature additionally finds that some
16 counties have already begun to implement artificial intelligence
17 tools as part of the application screening process to reduce
18 repetitive tasks for staff while preserving professional
19 judgement.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
21 appropriate funds for the department of business, economic



1 development, and tourism, in collaboration with a county
2 selected by the department, to develop an artificial
3 intelligence-assisted pre-compliance intake pilot platform for
4 that county.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The department of business, economic
6 development, and tourism shall develop, in collaboration with a
7 county selected by the department, an artificial intelligence-
8 assisted pre-compliance intake pilot platform for that county.

9 The pilot platform shall:

- 10 (1) Be limited to permitting intake and projects involving
11 single-family homes;
- 12 (2) Utilize artificial intelligence to support the permit
13 intake, routing, and review process;
- 14 (3) Screen applications for completeness, missing
15 documentation, and inconsistencies;
- 16 (4) Enforce required fields at intake;
- 17 (5) Validate basic parcel and zoning information;
- 18 (6) Route applications concurrently to all relevant county
19 agencies;



1 (7) Offer guidance to applicants through an applicant-
2 facing chat and frequently asked questions resources;
3 and

4 (8) Preserve the use of in-person assistance and phone
5 support and ensure that any use of automation or
6 artificial intelligence enhances, rather than
7 replaces, human service.

8 (b) The department of business, economic development, and
9 tourism shall develop a policy or metric to measure the success
10 of the pilot platform to determine if such platforms are
11 suitable for adoption by all counties.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
15 the department of business, economic development, and tourism to
16 develop, in collaboration with the county selected by the
17 department pursuant to section 2(a), an artificial intelligence-
18 assisted pre-compliance intake pilot platform for that county;
19 provided that no funds shall be made available under this Act
20 unless the selected county provides matching funds in the sum of
21 \$.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DBEDT; Counties; Permitting; Artificial Intelligence-assisted
Pre-compliance Intake Pilot Platform; Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in collaboration with a county selected by the Department, to develop an artificial intelligence-assisted pre-compliance intake pilot platform, subject to a matching funds requirement for the county. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to develop a policy or metric to measure the success of the pilot platform. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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