

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMITS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 land and natural resources' existing wiki permits system issues  
3 right-of-entry permits for commercial photography, film, and  
4 other uses on unencumbered state shoreline lands, providing a  
5 valuable public service. The legislature recognizes that while  
6 the department of land and natural resources maintains a  
7 centralized public list of available locations, the department  
8 does not regularly update the list. Any changes made to the  
9 list are not publicly tracked and the department occasionally  
10 removes a location from the list without providing the public  
11 with advance notice.

12           The legislature further finds that additions to and  
13 removals from the list occur without standardized notice,  
14 justification, or tracking, often causing right-of-entry  
15 permittees to incur substantial planning, staffing, and  
16 contractual costs based on the availability of a listed  
17 location. The legislature also finds that the department of



1 land and natural resources' discretionary removal of sites from  
2 the list without documented justification may impose economic  
3 hardship on permittees and stoke uncertainty in the State's  
4 creative, tourism, and local-small business sectors.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Require the department of land and natural resources  
7 to establish, maintain, and update a public database  
8 of each right-of-entry area eligible for a  
9 right-of-entry permit and establish notice  
10 requirements relating to the database;
- 11 (2) Require the department of land and natural resources  
12 to establish an administrative hearing and review  
13 process to allow permittees whose access to a  
14 right-of-entry area has been revoked by the removal of  
15 a right-of-entry area to seek reimbursement;
- 16 (3) Require the department of land and natural resources  
17 to enter into a memorandum of understanding the with  
18 the department of business, economic development, and  
19 tourism and Hawaii film office; and
- 20 (4) Require the department of land and natural resources  
21 to revise the terms and conditions of its wiki permits



1 service to incorporate the notice, refund, credit, and  
2 appeal procedures implemented by this Act.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 **"PART . RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMITS**

7 **§171-A Definitions.** For the purposes of this part:

8 "Database" means the public database of each right-of-entry  
9 area eligible for permissible use.

10 "Changelog" means the public changelog documenting each  
11 addition of a right-of-entry area to the database or each  
12 removal of a right-of-entry area from the database.

13 "Permit" means a right-of-entry permit issued for the  
14 access and use of a right-of-entry area.

15 "Right-of-entry area" means unencumbered public lands along  
16 the shoreline, including beaches and rocky coasts, eligible for  
17 a right-of-entry permit.

18 **§171-B Right-of-entry areas; permits; database; emergency**  
19 **removal; notice; changelog.** (a) The department shall compile,  
20 publish, and maintain a database of each right-of-entry area on  
21 the department's website.



1 (b) The department shall update the database on a monthly  
2 basis and include the following information in each listing of a  
3 right-of-entry area:

4 (1) The geospatial boundaries of the right-of-entry area;

5 (2) Permitted activities within the right-of-entry area;

6 and

7 (3) Site restrictions, environmental sensitivities, and

8 any other information that the department deems

9 relevant.

10 (c) The department shall develop and publish on its  
11 website the criteria for an addition of a right-of-entry area to  
12 the database or a removal of a right-of-entry area from the  
13 database.

14 (d) Before removing a right-of-entry area from the  
15 database, the department shall:

16 (1) Notify the public days before the removal of the  
17 right-of-entry area; and

18 (2) Seek public input regarding the removal of the  
19 right-of-entry area.

20 (e) If the department determines that there is an imminent  
21 threat to the public safety, traditional and customary



1 practices, cultural resources, or environmental protection of a  
2 right-of-entry area which requires emergency action, the  
3 department may remove the right-of-entry area from the database  
4 without prior notice or public input; provided that  
5 the department shall provide a written explanation justifying  
6 the emergency removal within seventy-two hours of the removal of  
7 the right-of-entry area from the database.

8 (f) The department shall maintain a changelog documenting  
9 each addition of a right-of-entry area to the database or  
10 removal of a right-of-entry area from the database. The  
11 changelog shall include:

12 (1) The date of the addition or removal of a  
13 right-of-entry area;

14 (2) The name of the official who approved the addition or  
15 removal of the right-of-entry area; and

16 (3) A written justification for the addition or removal of  
17 a right-of-entry area pursuant to the criteria  
18 established by the department under subsection (c).

19 **§171-C Removal of a right-of-entry area before permitted**  
20 **date of use; notification; reimbursement; administrative hearing**  
21 **and review process.** (a) If the department removes a right-of-



1 entry area from the database after issuing a permit, but before  
2 the permitted date of use, the department shall notify any  
3 permittees whose access to the right-of-entry area has been  
4 revoked by electronic mail or telephone within forty-eight hours  
5 of the removal of the right-of-entry area.

6 (b) A permittee whose access to a right-of-entry area has  
7 been revoked by the department due to the removal of a  
8 right-of-entry area from the database as described in subsection  
9 (a) or section 171-B(e) may be entitled to:

10 (1) Reimbursement of all permitting fees paid to the  
11 department; and

12 (2) Upon request, credit equal to the dollar amount of the  
13 revoked permit toward a future permit at an available  
14 right-of-entry area within one calendar year from the  
15 date that the request is fulfilled.

16 (c) The department shall establish an administrative  
17 hearing and review process to allow a permittee whose access to  
18 a right-of-entry area has been revoked to seek reimbursement for  
19 permitting fees paid to the department which shall be published  
20 on the department's website.



**§171-D Memorandum of understanding; interagency**

**coordination.** The department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the department of business, economic development, and tourism and the Hawaii film office that shall provide for:

- (1) Electronic data exchange regarding right-of-entry areas, scheduling conflicts, and site availability;
- (2) Advance consultation prior to non-emergency removals; and
- (3) Coordinated notice procedures for permit applicants and existing permittees.

**§171-E Rules.** The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purposes of this part, including but not limited to:

- (1) Publishing, maintaining, and updating the database, criteria, and changelog established under this part; and
- (2) Data sharing and coordination requirements with the department of business, economic development, and tourism and Hawaii film office.



1       **§171-F Annual report.** The department shall submit an  
2 annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
3 to the convening of each regular session detailing:

4       (1) The total number of permits issued for right-of-entry  
5 areas;

6       (2) The total number of additions of right-of-entry areas  
7 to the public database and removals of right-of-entry  
8 areas from the public database, including the  
9 justifications provided;

10       (3) The total number of refunds, credits, and appeals  
11 processed;

12       (4) Interagency coordination outcomes; and

13       (5) Any recommendations, including any proposed  
14 legislation."

15       SECTION 3. (a) The department of land and natural  
16 resources shall revise the terms and conditions of its wiki  
17 permits service to incorporate the notice, refund, credit, and  
18 appeal procedures established by this Act.

19       (b) The department of land and natural resources shall  
20 ensure that all forms, digital interfaces, and permit workflows  
21 are consistent with the provisions of this Act.





1       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for:

4           (1) The implementation, maintenance, and regular update of  
5               the right-of-entry area public database;

6           (2) Improvements to the wiki permits system and website  
7               infrastructure; and

8           (3) Outreach and training for prospective permittees.

9       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
10 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

11       SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section  
12 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
13 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
14 the new sections in this Act.

15       SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: *David M. Rind*



**Report Title:**

DLNR; DBEDT; Hawaii Film Office; Wiki Permits Service; Right-of-entry Permits; Right-of-Entry Areas; Unencumbered State Lands; Commercial Activity; Database; Changelog; Appeal; Reimbursement; Memorandum of Understanding; Annual Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources establish, maintain, and update a public database of each right-of-entry area eligible for a right-of-entry permit. Requires DLNR to develop and publish on its website criteria for the addition of a right-of-entry area to the public database or the removal of a right-of-entry area from the public database. Requires DLNR to notify the public and seek public input before the addition of a right-of-entry area to the public database or the removal of a right-of-entry area from the public database. Authorizes DLNR to remove right-of-entry area from the database without advance public notice in the case of an emergency. Requires DLNR to establish and maintain a public changelog documenting each addition to, or removal from, the public database. Requires DLNR to notify a permittee whose access to a right-of-entry area has been revoked before the date of permissible use. Requires DLNR to establish an administrative hearing and review process. Allows permittees whose access has been revoked to seek reimbursement. Requires DLNR to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and Hawaii Film Office. Requires DLNR to submit an annual report to the Legislature. Requires DLNR to revise the terms and conditions of its Wiki Permits service. Requires DLNR to ensure that all Wiki Permits forms, digital interfaces, and permit workflows are consistent. Appropriates funds.

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

