
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 in
13 collaboration with the office of planning and
14 sustainable development, county permitting agencies,
15 and the chief data officer of the office of enterprise
16 technology services;
- 17 (2) Require each county to publish monthly updates of
18 building and civil engineering permit data in
19 accordance with that standard; and
- 20 (3) Require a report to the legislature.



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

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

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

10 (1) Be updated at least monthly;

11 (2) Be published in a machine-readable format, such as
12 comma-separated values (CSV) or javascript object
13 notation (JSON); and

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

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

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



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



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



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



- 1 (28) The parcel identifier used for tax assessment
2 purposes, including the tax map key, if available
3 ("PIN");
- 4 (29) The primary company name of the contractor, if
5 applicable ("ContractorCompanyName");
- 6 (30) A raw value indicating the contractor's trade, if
7 applicable ("ContractorTrade");
- 8 (31) A standardized value for the contractor's trade, as
9 defined by the statewide permitting data standard, if
10 applicable ("ContractorTradeMapped"); and
- 11 (32) The contractor license number, if applicable
12 ("ContractorLicNum").
- 13 (d) In addition to the fields and field names provided in
14 subsection (c), each record shall include the following fields
15 and defined field names, if the county's system of record
16 captures the underlying information, to support statewide
17 measurement of permitting timelines and responsibility for any
18 delays:
- 19 (1) The date on which the application was accepted for
20 processing or deemed complete, in YYYY-MM-DD format
21 ("AcceptedDate");



- 1 (2) The permitting agency or county department
2 administering the permit, as stored by the county
3 ("PermittingAgency");
- 4 (3) The final disposition of the application, limited to:
5 approved, denied, withdrawn, expired, or voided
6 ("FinalDisposition");
- 7 (4) The date of the final disposition, in YYYY-MM-DD
8 format ("FinalDispositionDate"); and
- 9 (5) The date on which the permit was last placed on hold
10 or otherwise paused, in YYYY-MM-DD format
11 ("HoldDate").
- 12 (e) Each county shall cooperate with the other counties,
13 the office of planning and sustainable development, and the
14 chief data officer to ensure that the statewide permitting data
15 standard established under subsection (f) uses common
16 definitions, common field names, and common standardized values
17 that allow for accurate cross-county comparison. Each county
18 shall:
- 19 (1) Designate a permitting data liaison responsible for
20 coordinating implementation of this section;



- 1 (2) Provide, upon request, the county's permitting data
2 dictionary, code lists, and documentation needed to
3 map county-specific values to standardized values; and
- 4 (3) Maintain and publish, alongside the dataset required
5 by subsection (a), a crosswalk that maps each
6 county-specific coded value used in fields required by
7 subsections (c) and (d) to the corresponding
8 standardized value.
- 9 (f) The office of planning and sustainable development, in
10 collaboration with the chief data officer, shall establish,
11 publish, manage, and periodically update a statewide permitting
12 data standard to implement this section. The statewide
13 permitting data standard shall:
- 14 (1) Be designed for routine monthly publication and public
15 use;
- 16 (2) Incorporate, at a minimum, the required and
17 recommended fields described in subsections (c) and
18 (d);
- 19 (3) Define each field required by subsections (c) and (d),
20 including data types, required formats, and allowable
21 values;



- 1 (4) Establish standardized value sets for the fields
2 ending in "Mapped", including status categories that
3 distinguish, at a minimum, between delays attributable
4 to an applicant and delays attributable to an agency;
5 (5) Specify how a county shall represent missing or
6 inapplicable values; and
7 (6) Include implementation guidance intended to minimize
8 the administrative burden on the counties.
9 (g) The statewide permitting data standard required by
10 subsection (f) shall be published no later than January 1, 2027.

11 Each county shall comply with the statewide permitting data
12 standard beginning no later than January 1, 2027."

13 SECTION 3. The office of planning and sustainable
14 development, in collaboration with the chief data officer, shall
15 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
16 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
18 2027. The report shall include:

- 19 (1) The statewide permitting data standard published
20 pursuant to this Act;



- 1 (2) The consultation process used to develop the standard,
2 including participation by the counties;
- 3 (3) Any barriers to county implementation, including
4 technology constraints, staffing, or legal barriers;
5 and
- 6 (4) Any proposed legislation or administrative actions
7 needed to improve statewide permitting data quality
8 and comparability.

9 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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



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, county permitting agencies, 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 a report to the Legislature. (CD1)

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

