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# 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;
- 20       (3) Require a report to the legislature; and
- 21       (4) Appropriate funds.



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. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
12 the counties to establish, publish, manage, and periodically  
13 update a statewide permitting data standard, to be allocated as  
14 follows:

- 15           (1) \$                   to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 16           (2) \$                   to the county of Hawaii;
- 17           (3) \$                   to the county of Kauai; and
- 18           (4) \$                   to the county of Maui.

19           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the counties for  
20 the purposes of this Act.

21           SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



**1** SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Counties; OPSD; Chief Data Officer; Building Permits; Civil Engineering Permits; Statewide Permitting Data Standard; Report; Appropriation

**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. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

