



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

in consideration of
SB 2673, SD 1
RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent and offers amendments to SB 2673, SD 1**, which requires a statewide permitting data standard developed collaboratively by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development 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 report. Appropriates funds.

OPSD **supports the intent** of this measure to standardize permitting data statewide. We recognize that establishing uniform data sets is a critical step toward enabling accurate comparisons between jurisdictions and fostering evidence-based decision-making. By creating a transparent and consistent data environment, the State can more effectively identify and address systemic bottlenecks in the permitting process, which is essential for meeting our broader housing and infrastructure goals.

In developing a statewide permitting data standard, OPSD feels that coordination with the counties will be key, given the localized nature of building regulations. The counties currently manage the intake, processing and enforcement of the permits in question. Furthermore, OPSD and the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) currently lacks the specific technical expertise and granular operational knowledge relating to the permitting process that is resident within the county permitting agencies. Staff at the county level possess the deep, day-to-day experience necessary to define the technical parameters and data fields required for a truly functional standardized system and thus should collaborate with OPSD and ETS in this endeavor.

To ensure that this collaboration is clear in the bill, we proposed the following amendment to the preamble section on page 2, lines 12-15:

SB 2673 SD 1 RELATING TO THE COUNTIES - COMMENT
State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
March 17, 2026

(1) Establish a statewide permitting data standard [~~developed collaboratively by~~ in collaboration with the office of planning and sustainable development, county permitting agencies, and the office of enterprise technology services, chief data officer[~~in consultation with the counties~~];

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA AINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII' | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

SENATE BILL NO. 2673 SD1
RELATING TO THE COUNTIES

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2673 S.D.1.

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) provides **comments** on this bill which requires a statewide permitting data standard be developed collaboratively by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Chief Data Officer.

ETS believes having standardized building and civil engineering data available to the public could help address the state's housing shortage and enhance economic development. Common data standards and reporting templates suggested by State's task force on enhanced economic development would make the data easier to understand and use.

ETS defers to the Office of Planning and Sustainability Development for the leadership needed to coordinate and implement these tasks. ETS has no subject matter expertise on building permits.

For clarity and accountability, ETS suggests the following language changes in Section 1 (1) and Section 2 (e) and (f):

1. From: Establish a statewide permitting data standard developed collaboratively by the office of planning and sustainable development and the chief data officer in consultation with the counties;
2. To: Establish a statewide permitting data standard led by the office of planning and sustainable development in collaboration with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, chief data officer;

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development leading the collaboration with ETS' Chief Data Office would help guide the counties on uniform data collection, template development, and technical support as needed to provide the transparency and accountability requested in this bill.

ETS, a division of the Department of Accounting and General Services, serves as the backbone of Hawai'i's digital government by providing statewide IT governance, system modernization, and shared services to enhance efficiency, security, and service delivery across government departments. ETS ensures the reliability and security of statewide IT infrastructure, manages IT consolidation efforts, maintains critical systems like the state's mainframe and telecommunication networks, and strengthens cybersecurity measures. Additionally, ETS supports business continuity and disaster recovery, advances data governance and responsible AI adoption, and oversees enterprise agreements for tools like Microsoft 365 and Adobe Sign to streamline workflows and improve collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



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TO: Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Jordan Molina, Director of Public Works

DATE: March 13, 2026

SUBJECT: **COMMENTS FOR SB2673 SD1, RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important measure which requires a statewide permitting data standard developed collaboratively by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development 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 4/19/2042

While the County of Maui supports the overall objectives of SB 2673, we respectfully suggest that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) may not be the most appropriate agency to lead this specific initiative. The County believes that the State Building Code Council (SBCC), as the state's subject matter expert on building codes and construction standards, is better positioned to oversee this effort.

In addition, to ensure that the data collected is consistent, meaningful, and useful to the public, the County recommends that the dataset fields be developed collaboratively by the SBCC and all county permitting agencies, rather than being explicitly defined within the measure itself. This collaborative approach would allow for the development of standardized reporting that reflects the practical realities of county permitting systems while ensuring the data is accurate and useful for public-facing purposes.

Accordingly, the County offers the following recommendations:

1. **Amend the bill to reference the State Building Code Council (SBCC) in place of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD).** As the subject matter expert, the SBCC is best positioned to provide oversight and work collaboratively with county permitting agencies to determine the dataset elements that should be publicly reported.

2. **Remove Sections (c) and (d) of the bill in their entirety.** This would allow the SBCC and county permitting agencies to collaboratively develop the relevant dataset fields necessary to ensure the usefulness, practicality, and consistency of the information reported.

Mahalo for your consideration.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 411
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

SUPPORT FOR SB2673 SD1 RELATING TO THE COUNTIES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports SB2673 SD1 that requires a statewide permitting data standard and requires each county to publish monthly updates of building and civil engineering permit data in accordance with that standard.

Affordable/attainable housing has been one of our top priorities for years, given the ongoing housing crisis. The establishment of a statewide permitting data standard, as proposed in this measure would help with expediting housing delivery and reducing unnecessary barriers that delay much-needed development.

Standardizing and publishing building and civil engineering permit data across all counties can enhance transparency, facilitate interagency coordination, and support data-driven decision-making. These improvements are likely to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies in the permitting process, which have historically contributed to project delays and increased costs. By improving access to accurate and timely permitting information, this bill aligns with best practices observed in jurisdictions that have successfully accelerated housing and infrastructure development.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of SB2673 SD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Tumpap".

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.