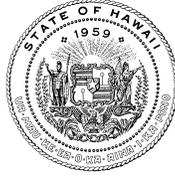


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Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
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OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

SENATE BILL NO. 2673 SD1
RELATING TO THE COUNTIES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.

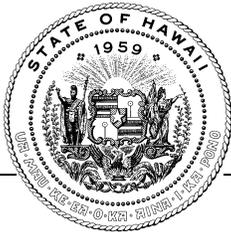
For clarity and accountability, ETS suggests the following language changes in Section 1 (1) and Section 2 (e) and (f):

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.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 10:57 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

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 on page 2, lines 12-15:

(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.