



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
S.B. NO. 2673, RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.

**BEFORE THE:**  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND  
ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026      **TIME:** 3:03 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 224

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Alison S. Kato or Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorneys General

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Chairs Wakai and Lee and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require each county to develop and maintain a publicly accessible dataset containing data on all building and civil engineering permit applications administered by the county. The bill also requires the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish, publish, manage, and update a statewide permitting data standard to ensure uniformity across counties.

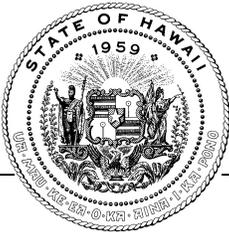
Article VIII, section 5, of the Hawaii State Constitution prohibits the State from imposing on a county any new program or increase in the level of service under an existing program without sharing in the cost. This bill requires each county to develop and maintain a publicly accessible database containing data on all building and civil engineering permit applications administered by the county. The bill does not provide funding to the counties, nor does there appear to be a way for the counties to recoup the costs to develop and maintain this dataset. As such, the bill may be subject to challenge as an unfunded mandate. To remedy this, we recommend providing funding to the counties by including an appropriation or by authorizing, rather than requiring, counties to publish the dataset.

We also have two technical comments. First, there is a missing letter "s" at the end of the word "subsection" on page 9, line 2. Second, page 9, lines 12 to 14, refer to

"Building and Land Development Specification core permit dataset requirements." This may refer to the dataset described in subsection (a) and subsequent requirements, but it is not clear. To clarify, we recommend the following revision to page 9, lines 12 to 14: "~~recommended fields described in [the Building and Land Development Specification core permit dataset requirements;]~~ subsections (c) and (d);".

We also note that the July 1, 2026, deadline for publication of the statewide permitting data standard (page 10, lines 5-6) may present implementation challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS &  
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 3:03 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**SB 2673  
RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.**

Chairs Wakai and Lee, Vice Chairs Chang and Inouye, and Members of the Committees.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent and offers amendments to SB 2673**, 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.

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.

However, while OPSD supports the objectives of SB 2673, we respectfully suggest that OPSD may not be the appropriate agency to lead this specific initiative. Given the localized nature of building regulations, we believe this recommendation may be better placed within the respective county authorities. The counties currently manage the intake, processing and enforcement of the permits in question. Furthermore, OPSD currently lacks the specific technical expertise and granular operational knowledge relating to the permitting process that is resident within the county permitting agencies. The 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.

Entrusting this task to the agencies that handle the permits directly would likely result in a more practical and technically sound implementation of the legislature's goals. **OPSD recommends amending SB 2673 to elevate the role of the counties beyond consultation and direct the county permitting agencies to effectuate this measure in collaboration with the Chief Data Officer.**

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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE & THE ARTS  
AND ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

SENATE BILL NO. 2673  
RELATING TO THE COUNTIES

Chairs Lee and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Chang, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2673.

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **supports** 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.

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.