

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**H.B. 911, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health**

**January 31, 2013  
9:30 AM**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Approximately \$350,000 in general funds over the next two fiscal years have been  
3 requested separately to help sustain current information technology activities and fund one FTE which  
4 could be placed in the proposed office.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to establish an Environmental Information  
6 Technology Office in the department. The environmental information technology office will provide  
7 Hawaii's environmental health programs leadership, innovation and management in information  
8 technology. We will assure quality data exchanges to support Hawaii's infrastructure permit demands  
9 and comply with federal and state regulations. This office would provide guidance and resources at the  
10 administration level to facilitate environmental health information technology initiatives for the  
11 Environmental Health Administration. The Environmental Information Technology Office will ensure  
12 that its environmental health initiatives are within the scope and vision of the department's Health  
13 Information Services Office and the Office of Information Management and Technology.

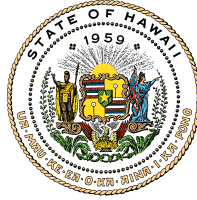
1           The dramatic progress our environmental programs have made over the last few years could be  
2 lost if we fail to create this office. Establishing an office with qualified staff to initiate and manage  
3 projects and seek additional funding will assure continued information technology innovations such as  
4 online permitting, the environmental health warehouse, geospatial mapping, mobile field inspection, and  
5 effective coordination of diverse air, water, and soil data functions. Further, establishing this office will  
6 reduce the burden of regulatory processes and increase efficiencies in data reporting and accessibility.  
7 By creating this office, environmental data will be easier to access and reporting burdens borne by  
8 regulated and permitted entities will be lessened. The collection and sharing of data by programs,  
9 between programs, with other agencies and the general public will be improved and secured, allowing  
10 for continued, increases in efficiency and more informed decision-making.

11 **Relation to the New Day Plan:** Technology and Innovation – improve the climate for businesses by  
12 improving government processes.

13 **Relation to the Department of Health Strategic Plan:** Foundation 5: Quality & Service Excellence.  
14 Goal: Develop internal systems to assure timely consumer responsiveness and satisfaction.

15           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119  
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**SANJEEV "SONNY"  
BHAGOWALIA**  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

**RANDY BALDEMOR**  
DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER – BUSINESS  
TRANSFORMATION

**KEONE KALI**  
DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER – OPERATIONS

TESTIMONY OF  
SANJEEV "SONNY" BHAGOWALIA, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Thursday, January 31, 2013  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol Conference Room 325

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

H.B. 911

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Chairs Lee and Au Belatti, Vice Chairs Thielen and Morikawa, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 911. My name is Sanjeev "Sonny" Bhagowalia, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the State of Hawaii.

The Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) supports the intent of H.B. 911, Environmental Information Technology Office within the Department of Health (DOH). In order to meet the growing demands for information and data from the public and to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations, DOH requires staff dedicated to managing its information resources.

As clearly outlined in the Business and Information Technology/Information Resource Management (IT/IRM) Transformation Plan that was published in October 2012, OIMT is moving towards a consolidated technology infrastructure and shared services model. In the new technology environment, OIMT will be responsible for providing the governance framework for IT/IRM, centralized IT services such as networking/computing, data centers, and common shared services like geospatial information systems (GIS), email, and security. Our vision in the plan

clearly elucidates that in the future, Department IT/IRM staff will focus on mission specific applications and support, while common IT/IRM functions will be integrated under OIMT. Of course, all departments shall adhere to the policies, procedures, standards and governance requirements set forth by the Chief Information Officer.

As OIMT wants to ensure that the office proposed by DOH does not duplicate its efforts and maintains the standards set by the CIO, we recommend including language in the measure to clearly state there will be no overlapping IT functions or responsibilities and that the office will continue to follow the business and IT/IRM lifecycle governance framework of the CIO.

We appreciate the work of the DOH's IT personnel in helping to develop the Transformation Plan, their continued professionalism and we will continue to collaborate with them throughout the transformation journey.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



## HB911

### RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Health

January 31, 2013

9:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment **SUPPORTS** HB911, which would establish an office dedicated to modernizing and facilitating access to Department of Health environmental documents, planning processes, and other critical environmental programs.

**This bill will improve regulatory efficiency, while ensuring greater access and information exchange for both expert and public review of environmental planning and disclosure documents.** Over the last decade, modern technology has revolutionized information exchange throughout our society, improving the efficiency and reducing the costs of communication in ways never previously imagined. This bill will help the Department of Health take advantage of the ongoing innovations of communication technology, in carrying out its important responsibilities to the public and to our shared environment. Potential benefits of this bill include reduced regulatory burdens to businesses and other organizations, reduced administrative costs to the state, and facilitated access to and review of environmental reports and other documentation by scientific and cultural experts and the general public alike.

OHA notes in particular that the state's duty to protect and enforce the rights of Native Hawaiians, as well as the state's policy of promoting Native Hawaiian cultural perpetuation, rely upon review and input by practitioners and Native Hawaiian community members in a number of planning and disclosure documents, such as cultural impact statements and environmental impact statements. Particularly for those individuals and communities on neighbor islands, where access to state offices located on Honolulu is limited, technological innovation may greatly facilitate this public review and input process. By providing an office dedicated to taking advantage of the benefits of modern technology, this bill will allow the state to more efficiently and fully carry out its responsibilities towards Native Hawaiians and the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture.

Therefore, OHA's BAE Committee urges this Committee to **PASS** HB911. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2527 Tantalus Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
30 Jan. 2013

Honorable Representative Chris Lee  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
&  
Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Committee on Health  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>.

Honorable Chairs Lee and Au Belatti, Vice-Chairs, and Committee Members,

H.B. 911, r/t Environmental Information Technology Office  
EEP & HLT Hearing, Thursday, 31 Jan. 2013, 09:30

I support HB 911 and ask that you pass it.

Environmental IT is critical to improved environmental quality and management, and the Department of Health (DOH) needs more resources to continue to improve its environmental IT systems. Good and timely information is critical to good action, and better IT systems provide that information better.

The DOH Health Environmental Health Administration (EHA) has made tremendous progress in IT but public expectations are rising, federal EPA demands are growing, and technology keeps changing. The public can now view near real time data on water pollution, from sewage spills for example (<http://emdweb.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb/wqd/viewer/>), and air pollution, from VOG and other sources (<http://www.hiso2index.info/> and <http://emdweb.doh.hawaii.gov/air-quality/>). EHA has and is automating permit applications to help applicants and EHA staff, for example (<https://wastewater.ehawaii.gov/wastewater/app/welcome.html>). EHA has been sharing drinking water information with counties.

EHA receives tremendous amounts of data, and reports much of it to EPA, but the challenge remains to make it quickly useful to program managers and the public. EPA has raised the bar on how much and how good reported environmental data must be, and expects states to adapt to its developing technologies. For example, the Exchange Network is becoming EPA's data sharing system of choice for more and more systems.

EHA needs resources to meet these challenges, and HB 911 offers a way to do that.

As background, I served as Hawaii Deputy Director of Environmental Health from 2003 to 2010 and personally spent much time on environmental It issues, serving on the Leadership Council of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network [www.exchangenetwork.net](http://www.exchangenetwork.net)), The Data Management Workgroup of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org)), and The Climate Registry (TCR [www.theclimaterestry.org](http://www.theclimaterestry.org)), for example.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Laurence K. Lau  
retired

**thielen3 - Charles**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:39 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB911 on Jan 31, 2013 09:30AM\*

**HB911**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EEP/HLT on Jan 31, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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