

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

S.B. 2858 S.D. 1 H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 31, 2014
2:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position: STRONGLY SUPPORT.**

2 **Fiscal Implications: None**—this bill is budget neutral. The Department has separately requested
3 \$161,956 in general funds for FY 2015 and \$185,612 for FY 2016 in H.B.1700, the State Budget, to
4 fund environmental information management activities and to fund one full time position, a Senior
5 Information Technology Specialist, that will provide support to the Department's Environmental Health
6 Administration (EHA) and the Environmental Information Manager ("manager").

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department supports establishment of a permanent Environmental
8 Information Management Office ("Office"). This measure does not expand state programs, it merely
9 adds permanence to existing positions to sustain their work. The current manager and Senior
10 Information Technology Specialist positions are embedded in a special project that expires on
11 November 1, 2014. The Department supports establishment of an Office and the permanent
12 establishment of the manager position, with a temporary exemption from chapter 76 not to exceed three
13 years from enactment of this measure, during which the position descriptions and minimum
14 qualifications will be updated and converted to civil service.

1 The permanently-established Office will continue to provide facilitation, collaboration, and
2 support of environmental health information systems, related processes, and technical initiatives for
3 EHA's 11 programs as it has for the past five years, spanning two administrations. The Office will
4 provide high level business solutions above and beyond traditional information technology and find
5 innovative and intuitive ways to collect, store, and analyze environmental data.

6 Duties include the development and continued innovation of systems that support EHA, in
7 correlation with the Department's Health Information Systems Office (HISO), the State Office of
8 Information Management and Technology (OIMT), and Federal Environmental Protection Agency
9 (EPA) programs and offices. The Office will continue to work closely with and ensure that information
10 management initiatives are within the scope and vision of HISO and the OIMT, and do not overlap or
11 conflict with their information technology policies, functions, and responsibilities.

12 The Office will continue to initiate and manage ongoing projects that will ensure environmental
13 information management innovations such as the e-Permitting Portal, an online system that provides
14 applicants with easy access to many of the environmental permits. Since the Portal became operational
15 in January 2012, 1,167 permits have been issued from applications that were submitted through the
16 Portal. It has increased EHA staff efficiency and saved an estimated 1,300 days of time that formerly
17 would have been spent on reviewing and processing applications. \$861,465 in application fees have
18 been processed through the Portal, and in 2012, construction projects valued at \$2.6 billion were issued
19 environmental permits through the Portal.

20 The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism partnered with the
21 Department of Health to provide financial support that was instrumental in the development and
22 implementation of the Portal. The Portal's increased permitting efficiency has helped the Department of
23 Health improve the time it takes to analyze and issue required permits to renewable energy projects,
24 reducing project development timelines and allowing the State to move closer to achieving its clean

1 energy goals. The Office will also continue to improve and maintain the Environmental Health
2 Warehouse, which provides online public access to environmental information about facilities in the
3 state that are regulated by EHA, and many other systems.

4 It is important to establish a permanent Environmental Information Management Office for the
5 ongoing success and improvement of EHA's programs.

6 We have drafted language to respond to various technical concerns expressed by Committee
7 members, and are looking forward to working with the Committee to resolve them.

8

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



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
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MARY ALICE EVANS
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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, March 31, 2014
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 2858, SD 1, HD 1

**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT OFFICE.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Johanson and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2858, SD 1, HD 1, an Administration bill, which establishes an Environmental Information Management Office within the Department of Health (DOH).

DBEDT has worked closely with DOH to develop a dynamic online permitting tool, *e-Permitting Portal*, which provides electronic processing for DOH environmental permits required for renewable energy and other facility development. DOH reports that since its launch in January 2012: 1,167 permits have been issued from online applications; the *Portal* has saved an estimated 1,300 days of time that formerly would have been spent on reviewing and processing applications; \$861,465 in application fees have been processed through the *Portal*; and, in 2012, construction projects valued at \$2.6 billion were issued environmental permits through the *Portal*. *e-Permitting* is a replicable model that can be implemented by other agencies seeking online permit processing and electronic document management solutions.

Qualified and full-time information technology staff within DOH will assure development and continued operation of new online tools such as *e-Permitting*, geospatial mapping, mobile field solutions, and coordinated agency functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, March 31, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2858 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the Committee:

The Chamber provides the following **comments** on SB 2858 SD1 HD1, which is the Administration's companion bill to HB 2308 and proposes to establish an Environmental Information Management Office within the Department of Health.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This Administration Bill states that establishing an office and hiring qualified staff will assure resource development for and continued operation of innovations such as online permitting, geospatial mapping, mobile field solutions, and effective coordination of diverse air, water, and soil data functions. Further, establishing an office will promote the federal impetus for environmental programs to reduce the burden of regulatory processes and increase efficiencies in data reporting and accessibility.

As we understand it, the proposed Environmental Information Management Office (EIMO) will be located within the Department of Health's Environmental Health Administration (EHA) Office. The Environmental Health Administration oversees the following divisions and offices:

- Compliance Assistance Office
 - Established in 1998, the Compliance Assistance Office helps small businesses overcome the hurdles they face in their efforts to succeed in business while following environmental regulations.
- Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office
 - The Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office provides risk assessments, responds to the release of hazardous substances and oversees the cleanup of contaminated sites. The office responds to at least 150 incidents a year. Office activities include evaluating health effects of air and water pollutants when no standards exist.



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- Environmental Planning Office
 - The Environmental Planning Office develops strategic plans, supports land use reviews and helps to get new programs underway. This office has been instrumental in developing the polluted runoff control program and is involved in coordinating watershed management projects.
- Environmental Resources Office
 - The Environmental Resources Office handles many of the grants and administrative responsibilities of the Environmental Health Administration, primarily seeing to it that the administration's reorganization is fully implemented, that new positions are described and established and maximum funding is obtained for programs from the EPA.
- Environmental Management Division (EMD)
 - EMD is responsible for implementing and maintaining statewide programs for controlling air and water pollution, for assuring safe drinking water, and for the proper management of solid and hazardous waste. The division also regulates the state's wastewater.
- Clean Air Branch
 - The Clean Air Branch is responsible for the implementation of a statewide air pollution control program through services which include engineering analysis and permitting, monitoring and investigations, and enforcement of the federal and state air pollution control laws and regulations.
- Clean Water Branch
 - The Clean Water Branch administers and enforces statewide water pollution laws and rules. This is achieved through permitting of point sources, compliance monitoring, inspections, investigations of complaints, and ambient water quality monitoring.
- Safe Drinking Water Branch
 - The Safe Drinking Water Branch administers federal and state safe drinking water regulations to the approximately 155 "public water systems" in the State of Hawaii to assure that the water served by these systems meets state and federal standards. Any system which services 25 or more people a minimum of 60 days per year or has at least 15 service connections is subject to these standards and regulations. This program directly affects the drinking water quality of approximately 90-95% of the people in the State.
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch
 - The Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch oversees management of all solid waste generated within the State through the promotion of pollution prevention and



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waste minimization activities, and the development of partnerships with both generators and the regulated community. SHWB also works to prevent releases, or threats of releases, of petroleum, hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants into the environment through aggressive enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

- Wastewater Branch
 - The Wastewater Branch implements the construction of county wastewater facilities with federal and state financing by low interest loans from the State Revolving Fund. The Branch has been involved in a number of other regulatory and financing issues.
- Environmental Health Service Division (EHSD)
 - EHSD is responsible for implementing and maintaining statewide programs to assure the safety of food and drugs, control noise and radiation, and improve indoor air quality. The division is also responsible for lead abatement, sanitation, and vector control (rats, mosquitoes, and other public health threats).
- Food and Drug Branch
 - The Food and Drug Branch ensures that food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and related consumer products are safe, effective (in the case of drugs and medical devices), and properly labeled; and that poisonous household substances are packaged in child resistant containers when required by rule. The branch also provides education and consultation for food handlers.
- Indoor and Radiological Health Branch
 - The Indoor and Radiological Health Branch is responsible for the implementation of diverse, statewide programs in community noise, radiation control, air-conditioning/ventilation, indoor air quality, asbestos, and lead-based paint.”
- Sanitation Branch
 - The Sanitation Branch is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the statutes, rules, and policies relating to environmental sanitation. The branch regulates food and service establishments, public swimming pools, housing, milk, recreational trailer camps, tattoo artists, licensing for sanitarians, mortuaries, cemeteries and embalmers.
- State Laboratories Division
 - The State Laboratories Division (SLD) administers a statewide program which conducts analytical testing services in support of environmental health and communicable disease control activities, as well as public health emergency preparedness and response efforts. SLD provides consultative and other related laboratory services to departmental programs, health care providers, institutions, and various federal, state, county, and city agencies including the certification of certain types of laboratories, and the licensing of clinical laboratory personnel and



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medical review officers. SLD participates in environmental and public health training, research, exercises, and investigations.

We also understand that the proposed EIMO will be responsible for the development and continued innovation of systems that support EHA, in correlation with the Department's Health Information Services Office, the State Office of Information Management and Technology, and Federal Environmental Protection Agency programs and offices.

We understand the need for improvements in how environmental information is managed in the State. However, we are also concerned about whether and how any expansion of government programs which require additional staff and resources will benefit the tax payers and/or permit-seekers. The EHA oversees various environmental permits that are required for most developments in Hawaii, and in some cases, for business to continue operations.

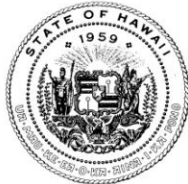
As to ROI, there is no mention in the bill on any type of quantitative improvement to the permit processing or response time of the various Divisions, Branches, and Offices under the EHA. Perhaps there should be more measurable outcomes on improved services if the Legislature is to provide additional funding and positions to the Department of Health for the proposed EIMO.

We also find it puzzling that one of the more important functions of the Department is to oversee the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement (EA-EIS) review and preparation as provided for in Chapter 343 HRS; however, it appears that the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) would not be included in the proposed EIMO.

Perhaps more specificity should be provided by the Department on how the new program will benefit the tax payers.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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Testimony of
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 31, 2014
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

**S.B. 2858, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation **supports** the intent of this bill which proposes the establishment of an environmental information management office within the Department of Health. The environmental information management office, as proposed, has the potential to reduce the burden of the regulatory reporting process, increasing accessibility and efficiency in data reporting and also facilitate effective coordination of environmental regulatory data functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KEONE KALI
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

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OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
KEONE KALI, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER,
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, March 31, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

S.B. 2858, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Ling Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Keone Kali, Chief Information Officer in the State Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT), submitting testimony in support of S.B. No. 2858, SD1, HD1, to establish an Environmental Information Management Office in the Department of Health.

The OIMT is now undertaking a multi-year program to improve the reliability, availability, and capabilities of the State's data processing services and communications infrastructure which support all State agencies and department. When creating the Environmental Information Management Office, the Department of Health will work closely with OIMT to coordinate information management for those new systems and programs. The OIMT looks forward to collaborating with the department on this project.

We thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill that improves information sharing within government, expands public access to information, and improves decision making to protect the environment.



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**SB2858, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

**Testimony of Herman Tuiolosega
Office of Environmental Quality Control**

**March 31, 2014
2:00 P.M.**

1 **Office's Position:** The Office of Environmental Quality Control strongly supports the
2 establishment of the Environment Information Management Office (EIMO) under
3 SB2858, SD1, HD1.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** NA

5 **Purpose and Justification:** SB2858, SD1, HD1, establishes the EIMO to efficiently
6 manage environmental information systems, incorporating new innovations in electronic
7 data applications, policy and regulatory management, and data dissemination. The
8 department of health has worked diligently over the years to collect environmental
9 health data information. The establishment of an EIMO to warehouse and manage this
10 information is a practical step in the data management process.

11 Since 2012, the EIMO has worked with OEQC to develop an interactive, Internet-
12 based, database for use by government agencies and the public. While development of
13 the OEQC database has been struggling with funding, the EIMO has been a great
14 resource in assisting OEQC with its efforts. The collaboration between OEQC and the

15 EIMO is a great example of interagency cooperation. The hoped-for OEQC database
16 will also make the environmental review system easier for the public, government
17 agencies and the private developers once it is complete.

18 Therefore, the Office of Environmental Quality Control respectfully urges your
19 support of SB2858, SD1, HD1.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.