



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 13, 2014

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
SB 2858, SD 1
**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT OFFICE.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Thielen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2858, SD 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 through January 2014, over 1,074 permit applications have been submitted online via *e-Permitting*, with \$93,215 in fees paid online, saving significant staff time in permit processing and application form management. *e-Permitting* reduces an applicant's time and cost to obtain permits, reducing overall project costs, and consequently is a replicable model for efficient and successful online permit processing and document management.

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. Without this staff, DOH will need to dedicate other resources to the management and upgrade of these online resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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

**S.B. 2858 S.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 13, 2014
9:00 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** SUPPORT with the proposed amendments (see attached language on pages
2 4-7).

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

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department supports establishment of a permanent Environmental
9 Information Manager position. The current manager position is embedded in a special project that
10 expires on November 1, 2014. The Department requests permanent establishment of this position, and
11 temporary exemption from chapter 76, not to exceed five years from enactment of this measure, during
12 which the position descriptions and minimum qualifications will be updated and converted to civil
13 service.

14 The permanently-established manager will continue to provide facilitation, collaboration, and
15 support of environmental health information systems, related processes, and technical initiatives for

1 EHA's 11 programs. Duties include the development and continued innovation of systems that support
2 EHA, in correlation with the Department's Health Information Services Office, the State Office of
3 Information Management and Technology, and Federal Environmental Protection Agency programs and
4 offices. The manager will provide high level business solutions above and beyond traditional
5 information technology that find innovative and intuitive ways to collect, store, and analyze
6 environmental data.

7 The manager will continue to work closely with and ensure that information management
8 initiatives are within the scope and vision of the Health Information Services Office and the Office of
9 Information Management and Technology, and do not overlap or conflict with their information
10 technology policies, functions, and responsibilities. The manager will also follow the lifecycle
11 governance framework established by the Chief Information Officer in the State of Hawaii Business and
12 Information Technology/Information Resource Management Transformation Plan, published in October
13 2012.

14 The manager will continue to initiate and manage ongoing projects that will ensure
15 environmental information management innovations such as the e-Permitting Portal, an online system
16 that provides applicants with easy access to many of the environmental permits. Since the Portal
17 became operational in January 2012, it has increased EHA staff efficiency and saved an estimated 1,300
18 days of time that formerly would have been spent on reviewing and processing applications. The
19 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism partnered with the Department of Health
20 to provide financial support that was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Portal.
21 The Portal's increased permitting efficiency has helped the Department of Health improve the time it
22 takes to analyze and issue required permits to renewable energy projects, reducing project development
23 timelines and allowing the State to move closer to achieving its clean energy goals. The manager will
24 continue to improve and maintain the Environmental Health Warehouse, which provides online public

1 access to environmental information about facilities in the state that are regulated by EHA, and many
2 other systems.

3 It is important to establish a permanent Environmental Information Manager position for the
4 ongoing success and improvement of EHA's programs.

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
MANAGER

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the quality of the
2 environment is as important to the welfare of the people of
3 Hawaii as is the economy of the State. The legislature finds
4 that there is increasing demand for the collection and
5 dissemination of state environmental data to the public, to the
6 regulated and permitted community, and to the United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency. The legislature also finds
8 that the development of specialized environmental information
9 management systems can greatly assist the department of health's
10 environmental health administration to increase efficiency and
11 make more informed decisions to better protect Hawaii's
12 environment. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined
13 that online and automated information management processes
14 streamline reporting requirements and make environmental data
15 more accessible to state and federal decision makers and the

1 public. Effective permitting, monitoring, and enforcement are
2 vital to the department's federal delegation of authority, and
3 environmental information management systems help the
4 department's environmental programs fulfill these important
5 responsibilities. The legislature finds that a permanent
6 environmental information manager must be established to
7 continue to efficiently and effectively collect and disseminate
8 environmental data, as well as to maintain current successful
9 information management systems and continue to develop new ones.

10 SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§321- Environmental information management. The
14 department of health may establish one environmental information
15 manager position for the purpose of promoting the collection and
16 dissemination of environmental data, aligning state
17 environmental information management practices with United
18 States Environmental Protection Agency expectations, increasing
19 data collection and reporting efficiency, helping to reduce the
20 regulatory burden, and making environmental information more
21 easily available to the public. The manager will develop and
22 maintain information management systems in accordance with

1 policies for environmental health programs established by the
2 department, the chief information officer, and the United States
3 Environmental Protection Agency. This position will be
4 temporarily exempt from chapter 76, which shall expire five
5 years after its enactment unless affirmatively extended by an
6 act of the legislature."

7 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

8

9

INTRODUCED BY: _____

10

BY REQUEST

Report Title:

Environmental Information Manager

Description:

Establishes an Environmental Information Manager position within the Department of Health. Effective July 1, 2050.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 325**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2858 SD1 RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Chair Lee and Vice Chair Thielen and members of the committee:

The Chamber provides the following **comments** on S.B. No. 2858 SD1, which is the Administration's companion bill to H.B. No. 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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Office activities include evaluating health effects of air and water pollutants when no standards exist.

- 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



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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 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 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 the overall expansion of government programs which require additional staff and resources. The EHA oversees various environmental permits that are required for most developments in Hawaii, and in some cases, for business to continue operations.

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 does not appear 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.

SB2858

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for EEP on Mar 13, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Ambler	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As an Environmental Engineer in the State of Hawaii, I see first hand the major benefits of the tools that have been developed by this potential future office at HDOH. The e-permitting portal has address THE biggest hurdle in NPDES permitting for construction in Hawaii which is application processing. There are major fiscal implications to this tool and loosing it would be tragic at this point. The Environmental Health Warehouse has the fastest, most user friendly interface I've seen in such a tool and exceeds the functionality of others across the nation. The biggest benefit for me of graphically locating permits is that you skip several labor intensive steps when placing an inquiry with HDOH. This tool should be funded for expansion and functionality and then marketed as a best practice for regulatory agencies across the country. I support this bill since there is a track record of success and so much more potential for an office with a tech and information focus.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB2858

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for EEP on Mar 13, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as long as it includes the monitoring of radiation around the state with the results of that monitoring being openly displayed on the Website for public view

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STATE OF HAWAII
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

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

**March 13, 2014
9:00 A.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.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** NA

5 **Purpose and Justification:** SB2858, SD1, establishes the EIMO to efficiently manage
6 environmental information systems, incorporating new innovations in electronic data
7 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; this project should be
13 completed by the end of this year, 2014. The collaboration between OEQC and the
14 EIMO not only saved OEQC time and money, but the database will also make the

15 environmental review system easier for the public, government agencies and the private
16 developers.

17 Therefore, the Office of Environmental Quality Control respectfully asks your
18 approval of the Environmental Information Management Office and SB2858, SD1.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 13, 2014
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

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

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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.



2527 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu, HI 96813
13 Mar. 2014

Honorable Representative Chris Lee
Chair, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>.

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Thielen, and Committee Members,

SB 2858, SD1, r/t Environmental Information Management Office
EEP Hearing, Thursday, 9:00 a.m., 13 Mar. 2014

I support SB 2858, SD 1, and ask that you pass it. Department of Health (DOH) environmental information management (IM) deserves permanent status that it now lacks under its current "project" designation.

I testified before your committee earlier in favor of the companion bill, HB 2308, and will not repeat all of my former arguments now. I believe the committee understands the importance of the IM program.

The committee should retain the exemptions from civil service, particularly for the Environmental Information Manager. The number and complexity of the systems involved require a level of leadership and technical skills and ingenuity that the civil service has difficulty accommodating. Some Representatives are concerned with the use of exempt positions, and I do not comment here on the state personnel system in general. I do ask the committee to carefully consider and be fully informed whether the civil service system as presently constituted, funded, and run provides in a timely basis high level, high quality information managers and technology leaders.

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

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