

JAN 24 2013

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY OFFICE.

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,
6 regulated and permitted community, and the United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency. The legislature also finds
8 that the development of specialized environmental information
9 technology systems can greatly assist the department of health's
10 environmental health administration provide timely and
11 comprehensive environmental information to the public, increase
12 efficiency, and make more informed decisions to better protect
13 the environment. The legislature finds that an environmental
14 information technology office needs to be established to more
15 efficiently and effectively collect and disseminate
16 environmental data. This in turn will greatly assist the
17 environmental programs to make better decisions through the

1 development of enhanced software programs. In order to maintain
2 current successful software systems, as well as continue to
3 develop new ones, the legislature finds that the environmental
4 information technology office should be created in the
5 department of health.

6 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
8 as follows:

9 **"CHAPTER**

10 **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE**

11 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
12 context otherwise requires:

13 "Director" means the director of health.

14 "Manager" means the manager of the environmental
15 information technology office.

16 "Office" means the environmental information technology
17 office.

18 § -2 **Environmental information technology office,**
19 **establishment.** There is established an environmental
20 information technology office that shall be headed by a single
21 executive to be known as the manager of environmental
22 information technology who shall be appointed by the director
23 without regard to chapter 76. The manager may hire staff, as

1 may be necessary, without regard to chapter 76. The office
2 shall implement this chapter and shall be placed within the
3 department of health. The office shall perform its duties under
4 this chapter and shall serve the director in an advisory
5 capacity on all matters relating to environmental information
6 management and technology.

7 § -3 **Duties.** The office shall:


- 8 (1) Promote the use of environmental information systems
9 and new technology innovations such as mobile
10 applications that enable efficient and non-duplicative
11 collection and dissemination of environmental data for
12 the department environmental programs, the department,
13 the state, and the public;
- 14 (2) Provide effective project management to design,
15 develop, and implement useful and relevant
16 environmental information management systems;
- 17 (3) Develop and implement environmental information
18 management policy, in accordance with policy set by
19 the office of information technology, the department,
20 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency
21 for environmental health programs within the
22 department;

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- 1 (4) Seek partnerships and funding opportunities with
2 outside entities to develop and collaborate on new
3 environmental information management systems and to
4 enhance current environmental information management
5 systems; and
- 6 (5) Promote the federal impetus for environmental programs
7 to reduce the burden of regulatory reporting
8 processes, increase efficiencies in data reporting and
9 accessibility, and facilitate effective coordination
10 of environmental regulatory data functions."

11 SECTION 3. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
12 on July 1, 2013.

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INTRODUCED BY: 
BY REQUEST

S.B. NO. 1142

Report Title:

Environmental Information Management and Technology

Description:

Establishes an Office of Environmental Information Technology within the Department of Health.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE.

PURPOSE: To establish an Environmental Information Technology Office within the Department of Health.

MEANS: Add a new chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Hawaii's environmental health programs currently lack the leadership and management resources in information technology that are required to assure quality data exchanges and transactions that are driven by Hawaii's infrastructure demands and federal and state regulations. 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.

Impact on the public: Access to environmental program collected environmental data will be easier. Reporting burdens borne by regulated and permitted entities will be lessened.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The collection and sharing of data by programs and between programs and other agencies will be improved allowing for more efficient and informed decision-making.

GENERAL FUND: Approximately \$350,000 in general funds over the next two fiscal years has been requested separately to help sustain current information technology activities and fund one FTE which could be placed in the proposed office.

OTHER FUNDS: Federal grant moneys fund positions.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: HTH-849.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013.