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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

13 "Department" means the department of health.

14 "Director" means the director of health.

15 "Manager" means the manager of the environmental  
16 information management office.

17 "Office" means the environmental information management  
18 office established in section -2.

19 **§ -2 Environmental information management office;**  
20 **establishment.** There is established an environmental  
21 information management office that shall be headed by a single  
22 executive to be known as the manager of environmental



1 information management who shall be appointed by the director  
2 without regard to chapter 76; provided that effective July 1,  
3 2017, the manager position shall be converted to a civil service  
4 position, subject to chapter 76. The manager may hire staff, as  
5 may be necessary. An employee who occupies an exempt position  
6 at the time it is replaced by a civil service position through  
7 the process established by this section shall be appointed to  
8 the civil service position that replaces the employee's exempt  
9 position; provided that the employee meets the minimum  
10 qualification requirements and any other applicable public  
11 employment requirements.

12 The office shall implement this chapter and shall be placed  
13 within the department of health. The office shall perform its  
14 duties under this chapter and shall serve the director in an  
15 advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental  
16 information management.



1       **§ -3 Duties.** The office shall:

2       (1) Promote the use of environmental information systems  
3             and new management innovations such as mobile  
4             applications that enable efficient and non-duplicative  
5             collection and dissemination of environmental data for  
6             the department's environmental programs, the  
7             department, the State, and the public;

8       (2) Provide effective project management to design,  
9             develop, and implement useful and relevant  
10            environmental information management systems;

11       (3) Develop and implement environmental information  
12            management policy, in accordance with policy set by  
13            the chief information officer, the department, and the  
14            United States Environmental Protection Agency for  
15            environmental health programs within the department;

16       (4) Seek partnerships and funding opportunities with  
17            outside entities to develop and collaborate on new  
18            environmental information management systems and to  
19            enhance current environmental information management  
20            systems; and

21       (5) Promote the federal impetus for environmental programs  
22            to reduce the burden of regulatory reporting



1 processes, increase efficiencies in data reporting and  
2 accessibility, and facilitate effective coordination  
3 of environmental regulatory data functions."

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Environmental Information Management Office

**Description:**

Establishes an office of environmental information management within the department of health. Effective July 1, 2050.

(SB2858 HD1)

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