



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**  
**H.B. 2308, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

**Testimony of Gary Gill**  
**Acting Director of Health**

**February 6, 2014**  
**8:40 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this administration bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department is requesting \$161,956 in general funds for FY 2015 and  
3 \$185,612 for FY 2016 in H.B.1700, the State Budget, to establish an Environmental Information  
4 Management Office (EIMO) to be led by a Manager of Environmental Information. It will also fund  
5 one full time position, a Senior Information Technology Specialist, who will provide support to the  
6 Environmental Health Administration. The EIMO will ensure continued support of the Environmental  
7 Health Administration's shared infrastructure and services, including software development and  
8 implementation projects, maintenance and support, cloud hosting, and software licenses for the  
9 Administration.

10 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to establish an Environmental Information  
11 Management Office in the Department. The EIMO provides facilitation, collaboration, and support of  
12 environmental health information systems, related processes, and technical initiatives for the  
13 Environmental Health Administration's 11 programs. Duties include the development and continued  
14 innovation of systems that support the Environmental Health Administration, in correlation with the  
15 Department's Health Information Services Office, State Office of Information Management and

1 Technology, and Federal Environmental Protection Agency programs and offices. The EIMO works  
2 closely with and ensure that its information management initiatives are within the scope and vision of  
3 the Health Information Services Office and the Office of Information Management and Technology, and  
4 does not overlap or conflict with their information technology policies, functions and responsibilities.  
5 The EIMO follows the lifecycle governance framework established by the chief information officer in  
6 the State of Hawaii Business and Information Technology/Information Resource Management  
7 Transformation Plan published in October 2012.

8 The EIMO will initiate and manage ongoing projects that will ensure continued environmental  
9 information management innovations such as the e-Permitting Portal, an online system that provides  
10 applicants with easy access to many of the environmental permits and streamlines the permitting  
11 process. The position will continue to improve and maintain the Environmental Health Warehouse,  
12 which provides online public access to environmental information about facilities in the state that are  
13 regulated by the Environmental Health Administration. The EIMO will also continue to develop and  
14 improve mapping tools to help locate and display environmental information and mobile environmental  
15 field inspection programs for data collection, and will coordinate diverse data-gathering and data-  
16 sharing functions across programs.

17 This environmental information management reduces the burden of regulatory processes  
18 associated with gathering and processing vital environmental data, and facilitates access within and  
19 across programs. It is important to establish the EIMO for the continued success and improvement of  
20 the Environmental Health Administration's programs.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

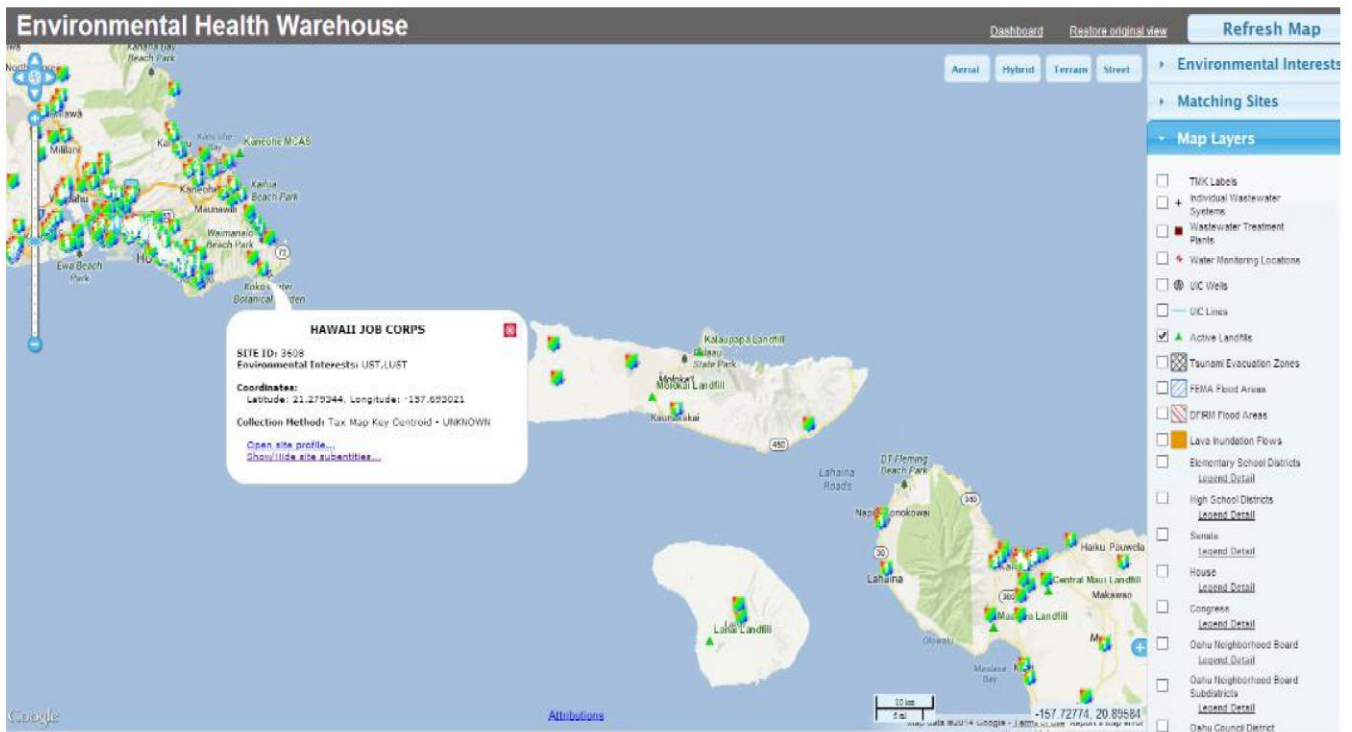
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1 Below is a screenshot from the Environmental Health Warehouse, an example of one of the many  
2 systems developed by the EIM and SITS that the EIMO would maintain and improve. The  
3 Environmental Health Warehouse provides diverse information about facilities and sites in the state that  
4 are regulated by the administration because their activities affect the environment.

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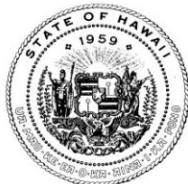
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1 Below is a screenshot from the e-Permitting Portal, an electronic permitting solution that streamlines the  
2 environmental permitting process and provides the applicant with easy access to many of the different  
3 environmental permits that EHA is charged with administering.

The screenshot displays the Department of Health e-Permitting Portal. At the top, there is a green header with the Department of Health logo and the tagline "Healthy People • Healthy Communities • Healthy Islands". Below the header is a blue navigation bar with links for Home, Finder, Reports, Dashboard, Users, Organizations, Applications, History, Help, and a user profile for Andy Matsumoto. The main content area is titled "Application Search" and includes a search input field containing the word "underground". Below the search field, there is a section for "Recommended Applications" which lists 20 applications that match the search criteria. The first few applications listed are: "Application for Transfer of an Underground Storage Tank Permit", "Notification for Underground Storage Tank", "Application for Renewal of an Underground Storage Tank Permit", "Application for an Underground Storage Tank Permit", "Application for an Underground Storage Tank Variance", "Certification of Underground Storage Tank Installation", "General Application for a UIC Permit to Operate", "Injection Well Permit Renewal Application", "Drainage Injection Well General Application For a UIC Permit To Operate", "Abandonment of Injection Well, whether Registered or Unregistered", "Drainage Injection Well Permit Renewal Application", "Existing Drainage Injection Well Application", "CWB Individual NPDES Form", "Facility-Name-Change Application For A UIC Permit to Operate", "Change-of-Operator Application", "CWB NOI Form", "CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs", "Application for Certified Redemption Centers (10/1/2004)", "Existing Injection Well Application", and "Individual Wastewater System Application".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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

February 06, 2014  
8:40 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 2308**  
**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**  
**MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection &  
Economic Development and Business

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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.



**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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thursday, February 6, 2014  
8:40 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 2308**  
**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 HB 2308, 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. Since its launch in February 2012 through January 2014, over 1,600 permit applications have been submitted online totaling over \$800,000 in fees, saving considerable staff time in permit processing and application form management according to DOH. *e-Permitting* reduces an applicant's time and cost to obtain DOH permits; therefore, reducing overall project costs which could result in lower contracted electricity rates. It also provides an example of an efficient and successful online permit processing and document management tool that can be implemented by other agencies.

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 may not have the resources to manage and upgrade *e-Permitting* and other existing DOH online resources; ultimately rendering them less effective and relevant, and minimizing their use and the investments made to develop these tools.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
CONTROL

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**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**HB2308, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

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

**February 6, 2014  
8:40 A.M.**

1 **Office's Position:** The office of environmental quality control strongly supports HB2308.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** HB2308 establishes the environmental information management  
4 office in the department of health to efficiently and effectively collect and disseminate  
5 environmental data. The department of health has worked diligently over the years to collect  
6 data that provides relevant information about the State's environmental health. The  
7 establishment of an EIMO to warehouse and manage this information is a practical step in the  
8 data management process.

9 Since 2012, the EIMO has been helping OEQC to develop an interactive, Internet-based,  
10 database for use by government agencies and the public; this project should be completed by the  
11 end of this year, 2014. The collaboration between OEQC and the EIMO not only saved OEQC  
12 time and money, but the database will also make the environmental review system easier for the  
13 public, government agencies and the private developers.



1           Therefore, the Office of Environmental Quality Control respectfully asks your approval  
2 of the environmental information management office and HB2308.  
3           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB2308**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EEP on Feb 6, 2014 08:40AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Campagna	Kamaka Green	Support	No

Comments: Kamaka Green supports HB2308. We believe that the establishment of an Environmental Office will improve and streamline the current environmental policy, guidelines and permitting process.

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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**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 8:40 a.m.  
State Capitol - Conference Room 325**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2308, RELATING TO THE 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 H.B. No. 2308 which 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.

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. It is unclear from the bill what permits are proposed to be on-line and how this new entity will “. . . promote the federal impetus for environmental programs to reduce the burden of regulatory processes . . .”

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.

2527 Tantalus Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
4 Feb. 2014

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

Honorable Representative Clift Tsuji  
Chair, House Committee on Economic Development & Business

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

Honorable Chairs Lee and Tsuji, Vice-Chairs Thielen and Ward, and Committee Members,

H.B. 2308, r/t Environmental Information Management Office  
EEP & EDB Hearing, Thursday, 8:40 a.m., 6 Feb. 2014

I support HB 2308 and ask that you pass it. Department of Health (DOH) environmental information management (IM) deserves a long lasting legal foundation that it now lacks.

Good and timely environmental information is critical to good action, and better IM provides that information for better environmental management and quality. The DOH needs both funds and continuity to pursue IM improvements. DOH successfully competes for federal funds, but its efforts depend heavily on temporary “project” status. The IM needs are not temporary, however.

The DOH Health Environmental Health Administration (EHA) has made tremendous progress in IM but public expectations are rising, federal EPA demands grow, 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’s e-permitting portal help applicants and EHA staff, <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/View/default.aspx>. An Environmental Warehouse provides facility information by query and maps, <http://eha-web.doh.hawaii.gov/ehw/Dashboard/>. EHA systems interact with other agencies, such as sharing drinking water information with counties. EHA continues to develop many other systems.

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 environmental data must be and expects states to adapt to its developing technologies. For example, the Exchange Network is EPA’s data sharing system of choice for more and more programs.

HB 2308 addresses a major EHA risk in meeting these challenges. EHA IM now depends heavily on “project” status that may end this year, and EHA IM requires and deserves a permanent legal foundation.

EEP & EDB Testimony  
HB 2308, r/t EIMO, 08:40, 6 Feb. 2014 hrg.  
4 Feb. 2014  
page 2

The exemption from civil service is appropriate, especially for the Environmental Information Manager. The number and complexity of the systems involved require a level of technical and leadership skill and flexibility which the civil service has difficulty accommodating.

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](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.theclimateregistry.org](http://www.theclimateregistry.org)), for example.

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

**HB2308**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EEP on Feb 6, 2014 08:40AM 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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**HB2308**  
**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**  
**MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

February 6, 2014

8:40 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2308, 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 a number of innovative ways. This bill will help the Department of Health take advantage of the ongoing advancements in 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 as well as the general public.

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 in 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 urges this committee to **PASS** HB2308. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.