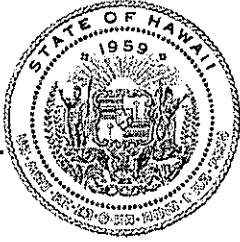


SB 2858

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE.

Report Title: Environmental Information Management Office

Description: Establishes an Office of Environmental Information Management within the Department of Health. Effective July 1, 2014.



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Tuesday, January 28, 2014
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

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

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee,

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2858, 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 November 2013, over 1,400 permit applications have been submitted online totaling over \$760,000 in fees, and nearly 1,900 applications have been created and saved by applicants for potential submission in the future. *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 will need to dedicate other resources to the management and upgrade of these online resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY GILL
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
S.B. 2858, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Testimony of Gary Gill
Acting Director of Health

January 28, 2014
2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this administration bill.
2 **Fiscal Implications:** DOH is requesting \$161,956 in general funds for FY 2015 and \$185,612 for FY
3 2016 in H.B.1700, the State Budget, to establish an Environmental Information Management Office
4 (EIMO) to be led by a Manager of Environmental Information. It will also fund one full time position,
5 a Senior Information Technology Specialist, who will provide support to the Environmental Health
6 Administration. The EIMO will ensure continued support of the Environmental Health Administration's
7 shared infrastructure and services, including software development and implementation projects,
8 maintenance and support, cloud hosting, and software licenses for the Administration.
9 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to establish a funded EIMO position in the
10 Department. The EIMO provides facilitation, collaboration, and support of environmental health
11 information systems, related processes, and technical initiatives for the Environmental Health
12 Administration's 11 programs. Duties include the development and continued innovation of systems
13 that support the Environmental Health Administration, in correlation with the Department's Health
14 Information Services Office, State Office of Information Management and Technology, and Federal
15 Environmental Protection Agency programs and offices. The EIMO works closely with and ensure that

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

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

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

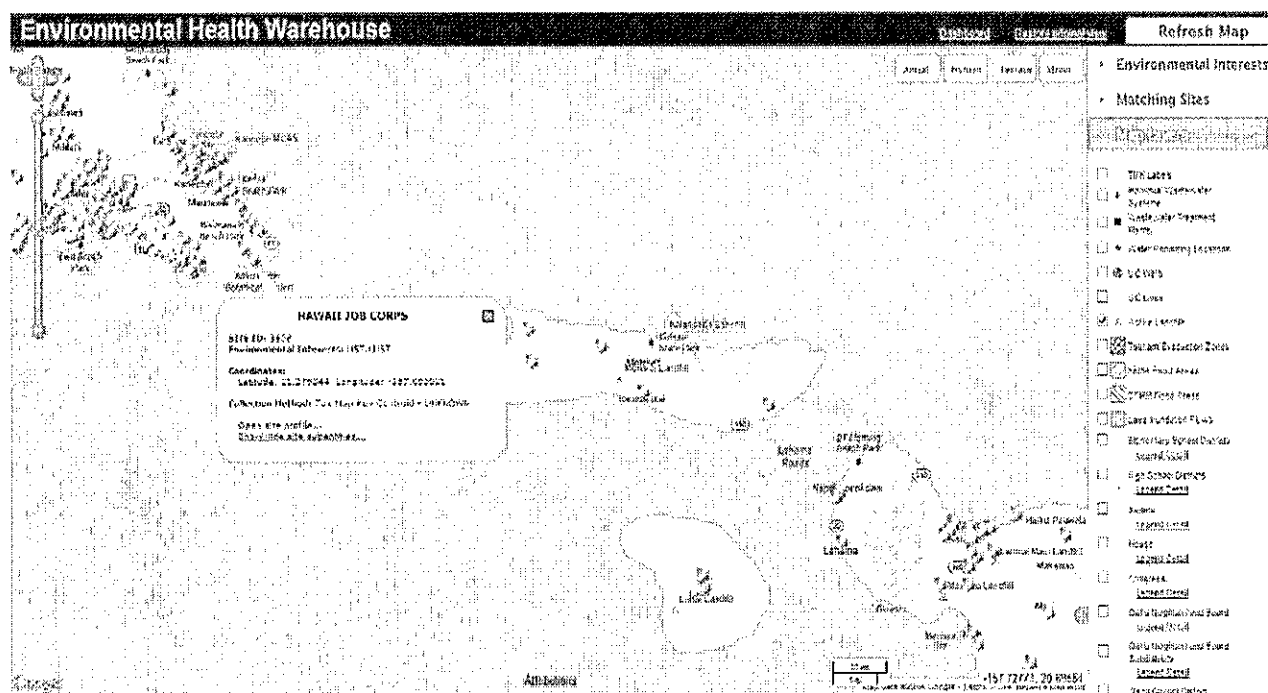
16 This environmental information management reduces the burden of regulatory processes
17 associated with gathering and processing vital environmental data, and facilitates access within and
18 across programs. It is important to establish the EIMO for the continued success and improvement of
19 the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

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

21
22
23
24

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.

5



6

7

8

9

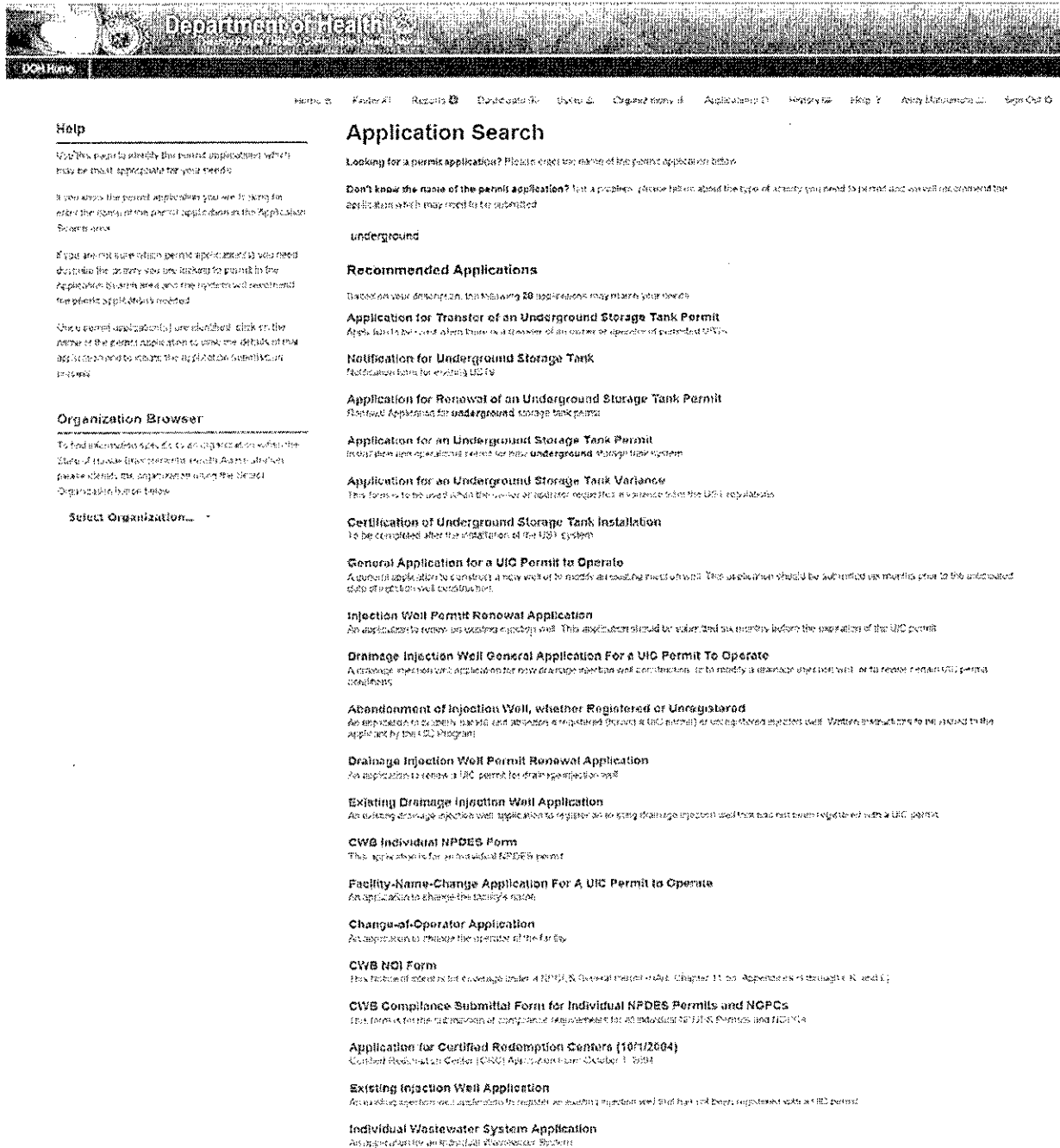
10

11

12

13

- 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.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VACANT
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CONTROL

235 S BERETANIA ST. SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Tel. (808) 586-4185
Fax. (808) 586-4186
Email: oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**SB 2858, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Testimony of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

**January 28, 2014
2:45 P.M.**

1 **Office's Position:** The office of environmental quality control strongly supports SB2858.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** SB2858 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 SB2858.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 28, 2014

**S.B. 2858 – RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2858 with a specific amendment. This legislation creates the Environmental Information Management Office within the Department of Health. We recognize the importance of providing effective project management to design, develop and implement useful environmental information management systems that will also help in the development of policies that are consistent with the Office of Information Management and Technology and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

However, we cannot support the provision in the bill that would allow the exemption of staff from Chapter 76, HRS. This particular type of exemption from civil service has become all too prevalent and is inconsistent with purpose and intent of Article XVI of the Hawaii State Constitution and Section 76-1 HRS. There are over 1,000 exempt employees under the specific exemption used in this bill – Section 76-16 (b) (17), HRS.

The problems and challenges created by exempt positions are that while most are included in HGEA bargaining units, and the union collects dues from them, they are not protected under the discipline and reduction-in-force article for bargaining units 3, 4 and 13. They are also ineligible for step movements. Exempt employees in Unit 13 are also precluded from earning overtime. Many of these exempt employees have been employed by the State of Hawaii for years and provide valuable service to their respective departments, yet they are not treated fairly by the employer.

There is simply no legitimate reason for employees of the Environmental Information Management Office to be exempted from Chapter 76, HRS. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2858 with the suggested amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilbert Holck, Jr.
Deputy Executive Director

2527 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu, HI 96813
27 Jan. 2014

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>.

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members,

S.B. 2858, r/t Environmental Information Management Office
ENE Hearing, Thursday, 28 Jan. 2014, 14:45 (2:45 p.m.)

I support SB 2858 and ask that you pass it. DOH environmental information management (IM) deserves a long lasting legal foundation that it now lacks.

Environmental information is critical to improved environmental quality and management, and the Department of Health (DOH) needs more resources to continue to improve its environmental information systems. Good and timely information is critical to good action, and better information management (IM) provides that information.

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.

SB 2858 offers a better way for EHA to meet these challenges. EHA IM now depends heavily on "project" status that may end this year, and EHA IM deserves a permanent legal foundation.

As background, I served as Hawaii Deputy Director of Environmental Health from 2003 to 2010 and personally spent much time on environmental IM issues, 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