



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:35 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2858

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

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

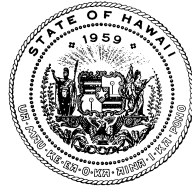
The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2858, an Administration bill, which asks for \$350,000 the next two fiscal years to establish an Environmental Information Management Office within the Department of Health (DOH).

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. Per DOH; 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. *e-Permitting* is 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.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

**Testimony of Gary Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration**

**February 26, 2014
10:35 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** COMMENTS.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None for enactment of this bill. However, the Department is separately requesting
3 \$161,956 in general funds for FY 2015 and \$185,612 for FY 2016 in H.B.1700, the State Budget, to
4 establish an Environmental Information Management Office (EIMO) to be led by a Manager of
5 Environmental Information and fund one full time position, a Senior Information Technology Specialist,
6 that will provide support to the Department's Environmental Health Administration (EHA) and would
7 be located in the EIMO. The EIMO will ensure continued support of EHA's shared infrastructure and
8 services, including software development and implementation projects, maintenance and support, cloud
9 hosting, and software licenses for the Administration.

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

1 offices. The EIMO will provide high level business solutions above and beyond traditional information
2 technology that find innovative and intuitive ways to collect, store, and analyze environmental data.

3 The EIMO works closely with and ensures that its information management initiatives are within
4 the scope and vision of the Health Information Services Office and the Office of Information
5 Management and Technology, and does not overlap or conflict with their information technology
6 policies, functions, and responsibilities. It also follows the lifecycle governance framework established
7 by the Chief Information Officer in the State of Hawaii Business and Information
8 Technology/Information Resource Management Transformation Plan, published in October 2012.

9 The EIMO will initiate and manage ongoing projects that will ensure continued environmental
10 information management innovations such as the e-Permitting Portal, an online system that provides
11 applicants with easy access to many of the environmental permits and streamlines the permitting
12 process. Since the Portal became operational in January 2012, it has increased EHA staff efficiency and
13 saved an estimated 1,300 days of time that formerly would have been spent on reviewing and processing
14 applications because it eliminated the need for manual data entry of permit application information,
15 significantly reduced the back-and-forth time between the applicant and staff related to the review and
16 revision of draft permits, and made it possible for applicants to submit more complete and accurate
17 permit applications because of the Portal's ability to verify specific information in online applications
18 before they are submitted. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
19 partnered with the Department of Health to provide financial support that was instrumental in the
20 development and implementation of the Portal. The Portal's increased permitting efficiency has helped
21 the Department of Health improve the time it takes to analyze and issue required permits to renewable
22 energy projects, reducing project development timelines and allowing the State to move closer to
23 achieving its clean energy goals.

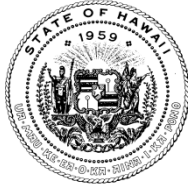
24 The EIMO will continue to improve and maintain the Environmental Health Warehouse, which
25 provides online public access to environmental information about facilities in the state that are regulated

1 by EHA. The EIMO will also continue to develop and improve mapping tools to help locate and display
2 environmental information and mobile environmental field inspection programs for data collection, and
3 will coordinate diverse data-gathering and data-sharing functions across programs.

4 It is important to establish the EIMO for the ongoing success and improvement of EHA's
5 programs.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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February 26, 2014
10:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 10:35 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2858 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber provides the following **comments** on SB 2858, 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.