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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that transparency is  
2 important to the public especially regarding the approval and  
3 permitting processes for construction and other projects that  
4 may impact the environment.

5           The legislature further finds that the public is often  
6 unaware of a pending project until after the environmental  
7 council has made a decision on an environmental assessment or  
8 environmental impact statement at which point the time for  
9 public comments is past.

10          The legislature also finds that increasing public  
11 participation and awareness of projects prior to acceptance of  
12 the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement  
13 will allow the public time to participate in the process.

14          The legislature also finds that although the office of  
15 environmental quality control currently has a website that  
16 provides information to the public, the information provided on  
17 the site is not user-friendly. Information is difficult to



1 locate, and the site does not highlight pending environmental  
2 assessments or environmental impact statements that are  
3 currently open for public comments.

4 The legislature also finds that public frustration is  
5 increased when there is a lack of opportunity for participation.  
6 Therefore, improving the office's website and highlighting the  
7 projects still open for public comments will allow the public to  
8 participate in the process.

9 SECTION 2. Section 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
10 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
11 read as follows:

12 "§343- Environmental Impact Statement Information Hub. (a)  
13 There is established within the office of environmental quality  
14 control, the Environmental Impact Statement Information Hub,  
15 responsible for providing:

16 (1) Notification of upcoming environmental impact statement  
17 hearings, including dates, times and locations;

18 (2) Notification of the start and end dates of each public  
19 comment period with a link to provide comments online;

20 (3) A summary of the nature of the pending environmental  
21 impact statement and;



1        (4) Shall include information on all State and County  
2 environmental impact statements.

3        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2021-2022 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining  
8 the Environmental Impact Statement Information Hub.

9        The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
10 environmental quality control for the purposes of this Act.

11        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

INTRODUCED BY:

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Dan Carnas

JAN 23 2020



# H.B. NO. 2624

**Report Title:**

Office of Environmental Quality Control; Public Records;  
Environmental Assessments; Environmental Impact Statements

**Description:**

Establishes the Environmental Impact Statement Hub as a hearing and notification website within the Office of Environmental Quality Control to notify the public of current and upcoming Environmental Impact Statement hearings, public comment periods, and allowing comments to be submitted online. Appropriates funds.

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

