

December 2018

**THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM'S REPORT
ON THE FACILITATION OF PERMIT PROCESSING**

Prepared by the
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



This report fulfills the reporting requirements for:
HRS 201-65

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Enacted in 1985, Act 237 directed the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) to develop and administer new processes and procedures to facilitate the processing of county, state, and federal permits in Hawaii. Act 237 was codified into Part IV, Sections 201-61 to 201-65, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). HRS 201-61 provides definitions of “department,” “permit,” and “project” as used in this part of statute. HRS 201-62 requires state agencies, and authorizes and encourages county agencies, to participate in a facilitated application process administered by DBEDT. HRS 201-63 requires DBEDT to operate a permit information and coordination center for public use. HRS 201-64 gives DBEDT authority to conduct other permit streamlining activities. HRS 201-65 requires DBEDT to report biennially to the Legislature on actions taken, problems encountered, and legislative actions that may be needed to further implement Act 237.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO FACILITATE PERMIT PROCESSING

DBEDT’s agencies with specific responsibilities related to permitting will report their activities individually to the Legislature.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Since the enactment of Act 237 over thirty (30) years ago, DBEDT continues to evolve to meet the needs of Hawaii’s people and economy.¹ With many resources accessible online, there is no longer a need for a repository. While DBEDT’s services have grown in many areas, including permit facilitation, DBEDT no longer has the capacity to conduct the following:

- (i) administer a facilitated application procedure for any project that requires both county permit applications and state agency approval;
- (ii) operate a permit information and coordination center for public use during normal working hours;
- (iii) maintain and update a repository of the laws, rules, procedures, permit requirements, and criteria of federal, state, and county agencies having control or regulatory power over land and water use for development or the control or regulatory power over natural, cultural, or environmental resources;
- (iv) monitor permits on an ongoing basis is to determine the source of inefficiencies, delays, and duplications and the status of permits in progress;
- (v) pursue the implementation of streamlining measures including, but not necessarily limited to, those measures defined in consultation with affected state agencies, county central coordinating agencies, and members of the public; or,
- (vi) design applications, checklists, and other forms essential to the implementation of approved streamlining measures in coordination with involved state and county regulatory agencies, and members of the public.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS THAT MAY BE NEEDED

At this time, DBEDT has no recommendations for legislative actions that may be needed to further implement Act 237.

¹ To account for these changing needs, DBEDT has been renamed twice since the enactment of Act 237: in 1987, it was renamed the Department of Business and Economic Development, and in 1990, it was renamed to its present name.