



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

HONOLULU – State agencies are collaborating to enhance public access to environmental information and efficient processing of pollution control permits via the Hawaii State Department of Health’s Environmental Health Warehouse and e-Permitting Portal.

Through the ***Environmental Health Warehouse***, the public has easy access to locations of regulated facilities and environmental health impacts within their own communities. The locations of hazardous waste sites, underground storage tanks, polluted water discharge points, and other permitted facilities are just a few computer clicks away. The information can be found with text searches or by selecting map locations such as school districts, neighborhood board areas, tsunami zones, and Tax Map Key (TMK) labels. The warehouse currently contains information on more than 13,000 locations regulated by the DOH.

In addition, companies that are regulated by the DOH find it easier to apply for environmental health permits through the new ***e-Permitting Portal***, which was made possible with funding from the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Applicants can quickly determine their permitting needs by navigating information that is consistently organized and consolidated into one site. The portal assists industry to prepare and submit online applications, make secure electronic payment of fees, and keep updated on the status of submissions. It also allows the general public to learn about permitting requirements and procedures.

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The portal will further speed the review and processing of pollution control permits. An online submission will be faster and more reliable than a paper-based permit application because it will ensure that an application meets basic information requirements before it can be sent to the DOH for review. The portal also allows applicants to communicate directly with DOH permitting staff members, further reducing the “back and forth” discussions that take up much of the total processing time.

“The e-Permitting Portal benefits both DOH staff and the regulated community,” said Gary Gill, Deputy Director for Environmental Health. “We hope to reduce the average permit processing time by about 30 percent. Making wise use of technology will keep our work efficient and transparent to industry and the public. It helps us do our job better.”

Last year, the DOH made the e-permitting system available on a trial basis and, to date, the Portal has received over 700 online submissions and collected electronic payments totaling more than \$70,000. Currently, almost 30 different permits, from Clean Water, Clean Air, Solid and Hazardous Waste, and Drinking Water programs are available for online submission. The DOH plans to have the remaining 16 paper-based permits totally computerized by the end of this year.

The online systems, developed under contract by Windsor Solutions, Inc., have proven to be valuable resources not only for the DOH but also for other states and Hawaii State agencies that plan on implementing similar applications for their own programs.

"With the Department of Health being key to regulating the health and safety of renewable energy projects in Hawaii, we feel this tool will create a more efficient permitting process for energy developers," said Mark Glick, Hawaii State Energy Office Administrator. "The e-Permitting Portal will help to maximize state resources, decrease permit and project development timelines, and move us closer to achieving our state's clean energy goals of 70 percent by the year 2030."

For more information on the e-Permitting Portal, visit <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>.

For more information on the Environmental Health Warehouse, visit <http://eha-web.doh.hawaii.gov/ehw/>.

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