

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

FUNCTIONAL STATEMENT

The Office of Environmental Quality Control, through its director, serves the Governor in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental quality control. At the request of the governor, OEQC coordinates state governmental agencies in matters concerning environmental quality. The office directs the attention of the university, community and public to environmental problems and performs other related functions as specified in Chapter 341 Hawaii Revised Statutes. The office serves as a clearinghouse for environmental review documents prepared under Chapter 343 HRS. It informs the public on a regular basis of the availability of these documents and of actions taken by affected parties in the implementation of Chapter 343 HRS. The director serves as an ex-officio member of the Environmental Council.

The Clerical Services Unit provides all necessary clerical support services, maintains fiscal and personnel records and prepares administrative reports for the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council.

The Planning Unit: a) investigates and develops recommendations for improvements in the coordination of state governmental agencies in matters concerning environmental quality, b) investigates and develops recommendations for new state initiatives and programs for environmental enhancement including research projects, c) develops recommendations for environmental legislation, monitors legislative activities, reviews proposed legislation and prepares legislative testimony, d) provides staff assistance to the Environmental Council in the preparation of its annual report, and e) develops and reviews proposals for improvements in environmental education.

The Impact Analysis Unit: a) reviews, analyzes and comments on the adequacy of environmental impact statements (EIS's), environmental assessments (EAs) submitted by government agencies and private applicants under the authority of HRS 343 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); b) formulates recommendations regarding the acceptability of final EIS's for which the Governor is the accepting authority in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order of August 23, 1981; c) consults with and advises state and county agencies on EIS matters; and d) promotes understanding of and participation in the EIS process by the public through workshops, seminars and other means.

Environmental Council

The council makes, amends and repeals the environmental review system (HAR 11-200) rules. The council also acts on appeals of decisions of government agencies and provides advisory opinions to affected parties on the acceptability of environmental impact statements. The council approves agency exemption lists and advises the director, governor, and legislature on environmental matters.

By law the council presents an annual report to the legislature and governor. Currently, the council meets this requirement by issuing the Environmental Report Card including indicators of environmental health and progress toward goals. Administrative and clerical support for the council is provided by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.