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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERMITTING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, currently, an  
2 applicant for a building permit must submit an application to  
3 each agency that has jurisdiction over an aspect of the project.  
4 Many times, this means that an applicant must wait for approval  
5 from one agency, before submitting an application to another  
6 agency to approve another aspect of the project. At times, an  
7 agency may decline to approve an aspect of a project that was  
8 approved by another agency that reviewed an application related  
9 to the project. Other times, an application may be declined  
10 without an explanation as to why it was rejected.

11           President Obama recently issued an executive order  
12 directing federal agencies to reduce regulatory burdens on small  
13 businesses and foster economic growth while protecting the  
14 health and safety of all Americans. The executive order  
15 requires federal agencies to "tailor" their regulations in order  
16 to consider the cost of implementation in a way so as to provide  
17 the least costs to the economy while achieving their objectives.



1 Federal agencies must consider costs and benefits and choose the  
2 least burdensome path.

3 Under the executive order, federal agencies must attempt to  
4 coordinate, simplify, and harmonize regulations to reduce costs  
5 and promote certainty for businesses and the public. Federal  
6 regulations must also be necessary and up to date; outdated  
7 regulations are to be amended or repealed. President Obama also  
8 directed federal agencies to increase their flexibility, known  
9 as regulatory flexibility, in implementing regulations as they  
10 affect the costs imposed on small businesses to comply with the  
11 regulations. Whereas large businesses may be able to  
12 financially sustain the costs of compliance with some  
13 regulations, smaller businesses may find those same regulations  
14 to be financially burdensome. Overall, the initiative is part  
15 of an ongoing effort to improve governmental efficiency.

16 The legislature finds that Hawaii should undertake a  
17 similar review of state and county rules affecting businesses  
18 with a view to streamline the approval process for businesses by  
19 amending or repealing rules that may impose burdensome or  
20 unnecessary costs to businesses of all sizes.

21 The purpose of this Act is to create a temporary task force  
22 under the comptroller to study and make recommendations on state



1 and county administrative rules, particularly those relating to  
2 county building permits, with a view toward streamlining the  
3 permitting process.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The comptroller, with the assistance of  
5 the director of the department of planning and permitting of the  
6 city and county of Honolulu, shall convene a temporary task  
7 force to review and indentify state and county rules affecting  
8 businesses, particularly with regard to county building permits,  
9 with a view toward streamlining the approval process for  
10 businesses through the amending or repealing of rules that may  
11 impose burdensome or unnecessary costs for businesses of all  
12 sizes but especially for smaller businesses.

13 (b) The task force shall be composed of representatives of  
14 businesses, labor, state departments and agencies, and county  
15 departments and agencies from each county, as determined by the  
16 comptroller.

17 (c) The task force shall make recommendations to the  
18 governor, the mayor of each county, and the heads of state and  
19 county agencies on any administrative rules that need to be  
20 amended or repealed in the interest of streamlining government  
21 for efficiency and responsiveness.



1           (d) The comptroller shall report to the legislature the  
2 findings and recommendations of the temporary task force no  
3 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
4 session of 2012.

5           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Streamlined Permitting; Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes a temporary task force under the comptroller to review state and county administrative rules to be amended or repealed to expedite and make less burdensome the permitting and approval process. (SD1)

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