



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU:

TIME TO FIX BROKEN CITY PERMIT SYSTEM WITH EXPEDITED FEES

Today Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced legislation that proposes to offer higher fees in exchange for expedited building and construction permits with the City.

“The City’s building and construction permit system is simply broken. It takes far too long to get a building permit in Honolulu. To partially address this problem, I have proposed instituting a higher permitting fee schedule and allowances for expedited permits. The higher fee structure will pay for additional staff at the Department of Planning and Permitting to work exclusively on expediting review of building permits,” stated Councilmember Djou. “If the federal and state government can expedite passports and business licenses with a higher fee schedule, I think the time has come for the City to look at expediting building permits with a higher fee schedule.”

Currently, the Hawaii state government expedites business licenses with a 50% fee increase. Similarly, the U.S. government guarantees expedited processing of a passport with an 89% higher fee. Djou’s proposed expedited City permitting legislation is modeled on expediting permitting legislation already adopted by the Federal and State governments.

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