

**Environmental Assessment (EA)
Hawaii Department of Health (DOH)
Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC)**

Purpose: To propose the use of state or county lands, or lands within conservation districts, shoreline area, historic sites, or in the Waikiki Special District; to propose amendments to county general plans; or to propose a wastewater system, waste-to-energy facility, landfill, oil refinery, or power generating facility according to HRS Chapter 343-5. Activities proposing the importation of regulated plant feedstocks for biofuel may be subject to 343 review.

Approval Authority: Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 343; Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200 and 11-201 (Environmental Council)

Potential Approval Prerequisites: Outreach with key regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and surrounding communities is strongly recommended early in the EA scoping phase. For private applicant actions, an Approving Agency must be established to determine the acceptability of the final EA.

Fees: None

For Permit Application, Guidelines, and Fees:

- OEQC website: <http://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/>
- OEQC Online EA/EIS Library: [http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fShared%20Documents%2fEA and EIS Online Library](http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fShared%20Documents%2fEA%20and%20EIS%20Library)

Contact Information: OEQC (808) 586-4185

Estimated Time for Permit Approval Decision from Application Acceptance: See Checklist / Process

| Checklist / Process | Chronology |
|--|--|
| 1. Begin Draft Environmental Assessment Process (EA). The EA shall contain all information listed in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-200-10. | |
| 2. Agency/Applicant consults community and experts. | |
| 3. Draft EA is received and reviewed by Approving Agency. | |
| 4. Draft EA submitted to OEQC with the Approving Agency determination letter anticipating no significant impact and OEQC Publication Form. OEQC publishes notice of Draft EA. | |
| 5. 30-day public review and comment period. | 30 days |
| 6. Agency/Applicant review comments. | |
| 7. Begin Final EA Process. | |
| 8. Draft EA is revised and finalized, comments are answered. | |
| 9. Approving Agency approves Final EA and issues one of the following determinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Final EA/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice and agency determination letter – If it is determined that the proposed action may have a significant effect the applicant must continue with conducting an EIS. ii. Final EA/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – If it is determined that the proposed action is not likely to have a significant effect, then and EIS is not required. | Estimated time depends on the timelines involved in attached studies required, public input received, the EA determination and other activities. |

Special Conditions / Requirements for Renewable Energy Projects:

- For projects going straight to an EIS under Act 172 (2012), no environmental assessment is required, but sufficient information must be provided in the EIS Preparation Notice to support thorough project review and identification of all interested parties for consultation.
- EA/EIS must contain information specific to the proposed action. If using templates or other EAs/EISs as a base, components should be inserted into the instant EIS only if relevant and specific to the impacts of the instant action being proposed.
- State and/or County permits required for a biofuel/biomass facility or waste-to-energy facility can determine whether or not the project is a “waste-to-energy facility” or “oil refinery” under HRS 343-5(a). Projects should be classified and named consistently by various agencies throughout the various permitting processes. Review the definition of “power-generating facility” to see if your project fits this definition and triggers HRS 343 review.
- Project proponents should work closely with the approving agency throughout the EA/EIS process to facilitate document review, processing, and publication.
- If a proposed project is subject to both the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and HRS 343, the project proponent and agencies shall reduce duplication of requirements to the fullest extent possible as described in HAR 11-200-25.
- “Voluntary” environmental review documents developed for projects that do not trigger HRS 343 will not be published or processed as prescribed under HRS 343, but can add value to the environmental review/permitting process. Non-343 review documents should be clearly identified as such, and not labeled as an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment (e.g., “Environmental Review Document,” “Environmental Report”).
- Exemptions from HRS 343 that are issued by an agency should be provided to OEQC for publication.