

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

November 28, 2018

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Martin and Councilmembers:

Bill 64 (2018), CD1, allows for an expedited process for building permits for one and two family dwellings, but does not amend or supersede the moratorium on large detached dwellings in residential districts. I agree with the intent of Bill 64 and support any action that will help the Department of Planning and Permitting to manage the building permit process more efficiently and in a timely manner. I am returning the bill unsigned for the following reasons.

As the department testified, Bill 64, CD1, contains a 60-day turnaround for the acceptance of the application. This can lead to an incomplete review of plans, and if code violations are discovered by inspectors during construction, applicants would face possible notice of violations or revocation of permits. While the timeframe is shortened initially, economic impacts would be more severe if a work stoppage was necessary after the start of construction.

In addition, not all permits for one and two family detached dwellings are eligible for the one-time review process. For example, it one time review cannot be used for properties located in flood hazard districts or have Existing Use Permits, Conditional Use Permits, or Variances.

In the implementation of Bill 64, I urge the building industry to partner with the city administration and to ensure that applications are as thorough and complete as possible. We fully recognize that the process can and should be improved. The ability of the department to process building permits in a more timely manner also depends on the quality of the submittals. While we have concerns with parts of this measure, we will be proposing specific actions to take within the spirit of the bill. An improved building permit process will result in positive economic impact for the City and County of Honolulu and for the building industries, and improved customer service for the public.

For the reasons stated above, I am returning Bill 64, CD1, unsigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Caldwell", is written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Caldwell  
Mayor

11/28/18 PM 2:30 CITY CLERK



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**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

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RELATING TO BUILDING PERMITS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this ordinance is to allow for an expedited process for building permits for one- and two-family dwellings. This ordinance does not amend or supersede the moratorium on large detached dwellings in the residential districts established in Ordinance 18-06 and therefore does not allow for the proliferation of large detached dwellings in the residential districts.

SECTION 2. Section 18-2.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, is amended by amending the definition of "building official" to read as follows:

""Building official" means the director [and building superintendent] of planning and permitting of the city or [such person's] the director's authorized deputy."

SECTION 3. Chapter 18, Article 5, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("Permit Issuance"), is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

**"Sec. 18-5. Expedited permit processing for one- and two-family dwellings.**

- (a) Under the following conditions, the building official shall process applications for building permits for one- and two-family dwellings within 60 days of acceptance of the application:
- (1) The applicant utilizes a one-time review process, as defined in subsection (c); and
  - (2) The application is prepared and stamped by a duly licensed professional engineer or architect who has not had either a building permit application or plans prepared for submission with a building permit application rejected by the building official more than twice within the previous 12 months.
- (b) Any work performed under a permit issued pursuant to this section that does not meet the applicable code at final inspection must be corrected within 30 days of issuance of a notice of violation. If the violation is not corrected within the 30-day period, the director shall suspend or revoke the permit as provided in this article.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL **64 (2018), CD1**

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- (c) As used in this section, "one-time review process" means a process and requirements established by the building official by rule, providing for the issuance of a building permit after only one review by the building official.

SECTION 4. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL 64 (2018), CD1

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

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SECTION 5. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ernest Martin

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

August 9, 2018  
Honolulu, Hawaii

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

*Muel Kapua*  
Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KIRK CALDWELL, Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
CERTIFICATE

ORDINANCE

BILL 64 (2018), CD1

Introduced: 08/09/18 By: ERNEST MARTIN

Committee: ZONING AND HOUSING

Title: A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO BUILDING PERMITS.

Voting Legend: \* = Aye w/Reservations

08/15/18	COUNCIL	BILL PASSED FIRST READING AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND HOUSING. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA, PINE.
08/30/18	ZONING AND HOUSING	BILL POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE.
10/18/18	ZONING AND HOUSING	CR-358 – BILL REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR PASSAGE ON SECOND READING AND SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING.
10/30/18	SPECIAL COUNCIL	CR-358 ADOPTED. BILL PASSED SECOND READING AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND HOUSING. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA, PINE.
11/03/18	PUBLISH	SECOND READING NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE HONOLULU STAR ADVERTISER.
11/03/18	PUBLISH	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER.
11/07/18	SPECIAL ZONING AND HOUSING	CR-375 – BILL REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR PASSAGE ON THIRD READING AS AMENDED IN CD1 FORM.
11/14/18	COUNCIL/PUBLIC HEARING	PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED. CR-375 ADOPTED AND BILL 64 (2018), CD1 PASSED THIRD READING AS AMENDED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON*, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN*, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this BILL.

  
GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

  
ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER