City to charge new permit fees starting Monday

The Department of Planning and Permitting will implement fee increases and new processing fees for certain permits and services that are administered by the department beginning Monday, March 31.

On Friday, Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed Bill 70, which amends fee schedules in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu. This is the first fee increase in 10 years and is intended to recover a greater share of the costs related to the processing and administering of applications relating to zoning, engineering, building and other land use permits in the city’s Land Use Ordinance. The fees also are expected to increase efficiency and processing of permit applications.

In addition to increased fees, the DPP will be charging new fees for many permit reviews and processing that had been done free of charge. Among the new fees, the DPP will now charge $600 to review an environmental assessment (EA) and $1,200 for an environmental impact statement (EIS) when the department is the accepting agency.

“Many of the new fees reflect an attempt to charge a reasonable fee related to a proportion of the effort it takes to process these permit applications,” said George Atta, DPP director. “Most of them are user fees for specific kinds of approvals. As such, we believe they will not have a broad impact and will be limited to the people involved in these activities.”

Also, State of Hawaii agencies that apply to the DPP for any of these permits under the LUO, or for coastal zone management permits, will be charged the new fees. The DPP estimates that the new fees will generate between $500,000 and $1 million.

For a complete list of the new fees, see http://bit.ly/1f2bKup, or visit the DPP website at www.honoluludpp.org.