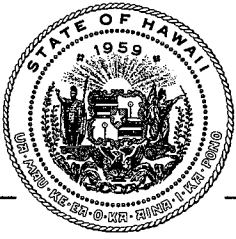


TESTIMONY

HB 2526



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ABBEY SETH MAYER
INTERIM DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824

Statement of
ABBEY SETH MAYER
Interim Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Monday, March 17, 2008
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of
HB 2526
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chairs Hee and Inouye, Vice Chairs Kokubun and Tsutsui, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) provides comments on HB 2526, Relating to the State Plan. This measure amends Chapter 226, HRS, the Hawaii State Plan, to create a new section to direct land use regulatory authorities at the State and county levels to ensure plans and implementation are guided by smart growth principles.

OP agrees that health, interests, and concerns of the people of Hawaii should be the primary objective of land development; that planning should strive to provide healthy and livable housing for all individuals; and that planning for land development should balance the quality of life with economic growth and land development.

Governor Linda Lingle, in her State of the State address, shared her continued commitment to a transformation of our state economy away from an economy based too narrowly on land development to one based on the talents of Hawaii's people. The Governor also noted the challenge to re-orient an economy long based on land to one that has as its cornerstone the preservation of our cultural and natural resources.

OP supports the intent of the bill to ensure that State and county plans are formulated, amended, and implemented taking into consideration the policies and principles set forth in this bill.

We have reservations with respect to Section 3 of the bill in that County general plans are policy documents which provide direction. Thus, it is unclear how they would require/mandate compliance with smart growth principles. We suggest alternative language similar to Sec. 226-58(b)(1) which would say that county general plans should contain objectives to address smart growth principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Paul_Zina/KAUAIH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 4:27 PM
To: TRNtestimony; testimony
Cc: Sen. Gary Hooser
Subject: Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2526 and/or HB 2919 - RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
Importance: High

NOTICE OF HEARING

Transportation Committee

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
10 a.m.
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2526 and/or HB 2919 - RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Respected Transportation Committee Members,

I would like to speak in favor of limiting/controlling the harmful emissions from large cruise ships while near shore or in port.

As a vice principal of a school whose location is in close proximity to a state harbor, I have on numerous occasions experienced first hand the physically unsettling effects of breathing cruise ship exhaust (sometimes referred to as "bunker smoke"). I have also received reports from the teachers and students at my school of dizziness and nausea associated with breathing fumes carried to the school from a cruise ship that was in port very near to the school. I am not a social opponent of the cruise ship industry nor do I oppose the economic benefit that the cruise ship industry brings to our community. But that benefit can not be at the expense of our health and safety.

Educating our children and keeping them safe is difficult enough when the whole system is working smoothly. The process becomes considerably more challenging when environmental conditions become unsafe for school employees as well as the children. It would be irresponsible of me not to speak up on this issue on behalf of my school. Please do your part to insure the safety of our children and those who serve them. Pass this law in a form that insures the air we breathe will support our health and well being.

Paul Zina
Vice Principal
Kauai High School
3577 Lala Road
Lihue, HI. 96766
Office: (808)274-3173 ext.105
Fax: (808)274-3160

*****Confidentiality Notice: This message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, use, disclosure, or distribution by unintended recipients is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.*****



**Hawaii
Association of
REALTORS®**
www.hawaiiirealtors.com

The REALTOR® Building
1136 12th Avenue, Suite 220
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 733-7060
Fax: (808) 737-4977
Neighbor Islands: (888) 737-9070
Email: har@hawaiiirealtors.com

March 15, 2008

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 414
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 2526 Relating to the State Plan
Hearing Date: Monday, March 17, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m., Room 414

Dear Chairs Hee and Inouye and members of the Senate Joint Committees on Water and Land and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) supports the intent of H.B. 2526 which requires land development to comply with smart growth principles.

HAR served on the Interim Task Force on Smart Growth created pursuant to HR 259, Regular Session of 2007 and was very pleased with the high level of cooperation and discussion that occurred at all of the meetings. Smart growth principles include creating a range of housing opportunities and choices, mixed land uses, and providing a variety of transportation choices. H.B. 2526 will ensure that a comprehensive approach to land development complies with smart growth principles, which have been proven to make communities better and to improve the quality of life in all neighborhoods.

Within the concept of smart growth principles mandated as policy, it would be beneficial to community residents and developers to incentivize such efforts. Some modest examples to encourage smart growth are to amend their zoning codes to allow smart growth, expedite permitting processes, provide density bonuses, mixed-use zoning, and other motivators.

HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 6:27 PM
To: testimony
Subject: ~~HB2426~~ - RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

HB2524

Submitted by:

Shannon Wood, *Interim President*

Windward Ahupua`a Alliance/The Climate Project/RECYCLING FOR CHANGE/BUST-A-DUMPER Campaign

P.O. Box 6366

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

Voicemail: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/223-4481 or 808/224-4496

Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-Mail: info@waa-hawaii.org;

Website: <http://www.recycling4change.com>; E-Mail: info@recycling4change.com

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

PUBLIC HEARING

2 pm

Monday, March 17, 2008

Conference Room 414

HB2526 - RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Support with Comments

My name is Shannon Wood, speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** in order to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* lands on the Windward side of O`ahu along the base of *Na Ko`olau* from *Makapu`u* to *Kawela Bay* as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas.

Over time, however, its mandate has expanded well beyond these vitally important regional issues.

Nowadays, *WAA* works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers, and the media about using **Smart Growth** planning principles which promote sustainability. These include: Designing long-term waste management systems; improving illegal dumping/derelect vehicle legislation & enforcement; developing & implementing comprehensive curbside recycling programs; providing research & support on public access issues; establishing both state & county-level "legacy lands" funds to support affordable workforce housing initiatives and critical land purchases to protect against inappropriate development; creating alternative energy systems to reduce Hawai`i's dependency on fossil fuels & to mitigate the impacts of global warming; and, setting long-term watershed protection policies based upon ahupua`a concepts & principles.

WAA strongly supports **HB 2526** because of its emphasis upon using **Smart Growth** as the foundation for planning our future growth. The fact that it zipped through the *House* without any amendments indicates that the **Majority Caucus** which submitted the bill understands the critical need to plan for the future properly.

That's why it was so disconcerting to see that the *House* effectively killed the two *Senate* sustainability bills - **SB2832 SD2** and **SB2833 SD1** - by referring them to five committees after crossover.

What an incredible waste of time and taxpayers' money by refusing to move these two bills along.

Therefore, I offer the following suggestion in order to keep the intent of the two sustainability bills alive by going through them and plucking out the most important concepts and then inserting them into this bill without deleting the original contents. Then, over the next couple of years, lawmakers can continue to refine and upgrade the law as needed.

If you don't feel that this will work, then I urge that you pass out **HB 2526** as is. *Mahalo* for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY

HB 2526

(END)