

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2008

Committee: House Committee on  
Economic Development and  
Business Concerns

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. No. 2590 H.D. 1, Relating to Sustainability

Purpose: Adopts the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan; establishes a sustainability council to coordinate, implement, measure, and evaluate the progress of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan and activities; and appropriates funds to the sustainability council.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.B. No. 2590 H.D. 1. Addressing the steady deterioration of public infrastructure; the lack of affordable housing; the continued reliance on a service-based economy; the vulnerability of Hawaii in a volatile global energy market; the possible interruptions in travel and critical food supplies; the threats to fragile island ecosystems; and the ever increasing numbers of residents and visitors is critical to our future. The planning and action needed to sustain and contribute positively to the quality of life for Hawaii's current and future generations will be realized by establishing a commitment to lasting solutions that simultaneously address economic, cultural, and environmental concerns.

Adopting the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan, establishing a sustainability council, and appropriating funds for the creation of the sustainability council will move the State of Hawaii closer to a more sustainable state and will put Hawaii on the path to long-term prosperity in all aspects of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns  
February 12, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
by  
Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto

HB 2590, HD1: Relating to Sustainability

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I am pleased to provide personal testimony on House Bill 2590, HD1, which adopts the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan; establishes a Sustainability Council to coordinate, implement, measure, and evaluate the progress of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and activities; and appropriates funds to the Sustainability Council. This testimony is presented from the perspective of the dean of CTAHR and an ex-officio member of the Board of Agriculture. It does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i.

I support HB 2590, HD1.

Much has changed in the three decades since the first Hawai'i State Plan was developed, from population growth and aging to technological advances, geopolitical circumstances, and new social and environmental challenges. The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan provides a framework for addressing vital quality-of-life and public policy issues, including land and water use, energy, public infrastructure, economic development, transportation, education, the arts, and health. Adoption of the plan will put into place goals that reflect the needs of our citizens now and in the future: a sustainable way of life; a diverse and competitive economy; responsible use and protection of natural resources; strong, healthy, vibrant, and nurturing communities; and thriving and enduring cultures. Establishment and funding of the Sustainability Council will facilitate the development of effective strategies to attain these goals.

CTAHR is committed to providing an excellent education for our students and fostering a diverse and vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and thriving families and communities for Hawai'i. The future envisioned in the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan—a sustainable economy, a sustainable environment, and sustainable communities—mirrors CTAHR's mission, vision, and strategic plan, and our college stands ready to assist this vital effort to shape sustainable state policies for the next forty years and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# HAWAI‘I 2050 SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

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## TESTIMONY

Sen. Russell Kokubun,  
Chair

Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Pono Chong  
Ilan Costa  
Henry Eng  
Sen. Mike Gabbard  
David Goode  
Marion M. Higa  
Jeffrey Hunt  
Dr. Karl Kim  
Millie Kim  
Keith Kurahashi  
Brad Kurokawa  
Sen. Ron Menor  
Rep. Colleen Meyer  
Keith Rollman  
Dr. James Spencer  
Jane Testa  
Stacie Thorlaxson  
Beth Tokioka  
Sen. Jill Tokuda  
Michael Tresler  
Pamela Tumpap  
Rep. Ryan Yamane

**To:** The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and Members of the  
Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns

**From:** The Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force

**Re:** TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 2590, HD1 RELATING TO  
SUSTAINABILITY

**Date:** February 12, 2008

**Locale:** Room 325

Aloha chair and committee members,

We, the members of the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force, support and endorse House Bill 2590, HD 1 which codifies the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan (Hawaii 2050).

Hawaii 2050 embodies the expressed thoughts, opinions and values of communities across our islands. The Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan is truly the “people’s plan.”

We believed steadfastly that the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan should reflect the will and sentiments of Hawaii’s citizens. Our outreach has been extensive and rigorous. Thirty-six meetings across the state drew thousands of residents. We conducted two statistically sound general population surveys. We met with county mayors, council members, planning directors, policy makers, and experts, as well as dozens of youth, community, business, environmental, labor and other stakeholders and organizations.

In total, more than 10,500 participants provided input to Hawai‘i 2050. The Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force has learned that the overwhelming majority of people in Hawai‘i want a balanced approach to Hawai‘i’s future, where economic, social and environmental goals are in balance.

Our citizens inherently recognize that these three pillars of our society are interdependent. We want a vibrant, diversified economy; a healthy quality of life that is grounded in a multi-ethnic culture and Kanaka Maoli values; and thriving natural resources.

Hawaii 2050 achieves this. It has goals for the future of our state that resonate with citizens. The plan has strategic actions to achieve the goals, and indicators to measure progress. The plan has priority actions that express the sense of urgency that citizens feel – they want action now. Hawaii 2050 has a mechanism for accountability – the Sustainability Council. A citizen-led body, the Sustainability Council will implement Hawaii 2050 and publish a public “report card” about sustainability.

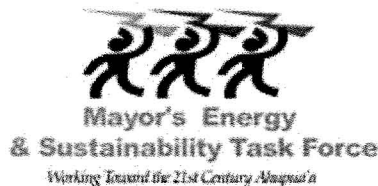
Please vote for HB2590, HD1. Mahalo for your time.



**wakai1-Karen**

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**From:** Rollman, Keith [krollman@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 4:36 PM  
**To:** EDBtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony of Keith Rollman in Support of HB2590 HD1



**KEITH ROLLMAN**  
Senior Advisor – Department of Information Technology  
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 5th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7658 • FAX: (808) 527-6272 • E-MAIL: krollman@honolulu.gov

## **Testimony of Keith Rollman in Support of HB2590 HD1**

### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.	Rep. Joey Manahan
Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Jerry L. Chang	Rep. Ryan I. Yamane
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Corinne W.L. Ching
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto

### NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: February 12, 2008  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Committee Members:

I am speaking for myself as a member of Mayor Hannemann's Energy and Sustainability Task Force and a member of the state legislature's Hawaii 2050 Task Force.

We in Hawaii find ourselves in a uniquely precarious position in that the vast majority of our food is no longer produced locally and almost all of our energy comes from imported fossil fuels. We have inadvertently created a textbook case of an unsustainable society.

Few subjects present more compelling urgency, therefore, than the proper planning for a new sustainable future for Hawaii.

2/11/2008

We must find better ways of doing things that make more sense--ways more compatible with our fragile environment and ways that display a little more deference to the wisdom of our host culture.

Having served on the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force since its inception I can attest to the thoroughness of its community engagement process and its overall inclusiveness. The sustainability plan that was subsequently generated accurately reflects the general public's priorities and aspirations for the future of our state. As such, it should be acknowledged and adopted by the state legislature and used as a guideline for shaping policy and decision making.

Further, the formation of a sustainability council to coordinate, implement, measure, and evaluate the progress of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan is fundamental to its overall implementation and to the continuation of this vital public dialog.

The more that the legislature can do to help foster and elucidate a shared vision for the future of Hawaii, and to identify common goals that can then be translated into action, the closer we will all get to our goal of building a more sustainable future for Hawaii.

The support of your committee for HB2590 HD1 to continue this important undertaking is a critical step in the right direction.

Respectfully submitted on February 11, 2008,

Keith Rollman  
Senior Advisor  
Department of Information Technology

**Keith Rollman**  
Senior Advisor  
Department of Information Technology  
City & County of Honolulu  
Phone: 808-768-7658



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991



Randy Perreira *Executive Director*  
Tel: 808 543-0011 Fax: 808 528-0922

Nora A. Nomura *Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808 543-0003 Fax: 808 528-0922

Derek M. Mizuno *Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808 543-0055 Fax: 808 523-6879

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

Testimony by  
HGEA AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO  
February 12, 2008

**H.B. 2590, H.D. 1 - Relating to Sustainability**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of the H.B. 2590, H.D. 1, to adopt the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan and establish an appropriately funded Sustainability Council, with amendment.

The HGEA supports the basic need for a sustainability plan, however, we have the following concern regarding the current language of H.B. 2590:

**Section 6, (6)**, we do not support the appointment of officers, agents and employees, prescribing their duties and qualifications and fixing their salaries, without regard to Chapter 76. Historically, there has been a problem with inequities between exempt employees and employees included in the bargaining unit. The HGEA does not support legislation that unnecessarily creates new exempt positions.

We hope that H.B. 2590, H.D. 1, will be passed with requested amendment. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO  
February 12, 2008

## H.B. 2590, H.D. 1 - Relating to Sustainability

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports the intent and purpose of H.B. 2590, H.D. 1.

In this changing economy, work force and environment, it is imperative to plan and take actions to protect Hawaii's future. Adopting the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan and establishing an appropriately funded Sustainability Council are steps in that direction. We cannot wait any longer to take positive steps to preserve our unique island home and culture. The Hawaii 2050 effort, which has involved many of our citizens, the business sector and Labor, has developed this first step we can take to ensure a sustainable future for our keiki. Your favorable consideration of this historic legislation is requested.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2590, HD1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2590, HD1, which adopts the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan, establishes a sustainability council to coordinate, implement, measure, and evaluate the progress of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan and activities, and appropriates funds.

H.B. 2590, HD1 is intended to get Hawaii started on the road to developing a plan for sustainability. It is not intended to outline the specific steps involved and, in fact, nothing concrete should be expected to occur for several years. However, this is a step in the right direction and most definitely needed.

Although Hawaii has had a State Plan for some time, growth proponents have sought to push for development that may generate revenue in the short term but could potentially affect sustainability for future generations in Hawaii. Hawaii 2050 will look at what we collectively want Hawaii to be for our children and grandchildren. What are the values which all of Hawaii should embrace? How can we develop a sustainable economy that is not reliant on sources outside of Hawaii? How can we increase opportunities for future generations to be able to live and work successfully in Hawaii? How will we promote local food and products and become self-sustaining? How will we take care of our elderly and disabled?

Hawaii 2050 is a systematic and holistic view of critical issues facing Hawaii today that requires planning to ensure a better future for all of Hawaii. Hawaii 2050 is concerned about the interests of the majority of Hawaii residents, not simply the rich and powerful few.

For these reasons, the ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2590, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this measure.



**The Chamber of  
Commerce of Hawaii**

Since 1850

Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2590 HD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY**

Chairs Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports HB 2590 HD1 with comments.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing 1100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. The organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

H.B. No. 2590 adopts the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. It establishes a sustainability council to coordinate, implement, measure, and evaluate the progress of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan and activities. It also appropriates funds to the sustainability council.

The Chamber supports the need to focus on the future and create an environment in Hawaii that provides a certain quality of life for the next generation of Hawaii residents. We participated in the process of developing the 2050 Sustainability plan, and support the need for continuing this process. In regards to the Sustainability Council, however, The Chamber believes that the Council should serve an advisory role only.

Therefore, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports HB 2590 HD1 with comments. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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[www.actuslendlease.com](http://www.actuslendlease.com)

A Lend Lease Limited  
Liability Company

February 11, 2008

To the Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns:

**We support and endorse House Bill 2590**, which codifies the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan (Hawaii 2050) and urge your adoption of this legislation.

We participated in the events that created the plan sponsoring several Business Leadership Council meetings and we truly believe that the Hawai'i 2050 Plan embodies the expressed thoughts, opinions and values of communities across our islands. The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan reflects that the overwhelming majority of people in Hawai'i want a balanced approach to Hawai'i's future, where economic, social and environmental goals are in balance.

Our organization believes in this "triple bottom line" approach and recognizes the interdependence and importance of environmental, economic and social sustainability. This philosophy is embedded in all we do and we are listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. We are committed to being a leader in sustainable development with the goal of "creating world class communities that regenerate our environment, enrich people's lives and foster economic growth."

We truly believe this is an important journey for every one of us.

The 2050 Plan has strategic actions to achieve the goals, and indicators to measure progress. We are confident that the plan has priority actions that express the sense of urgency that citizens feel – they want action now—and are willing to be part of the solution. Hawai'i 2050 also has a mechanism for accountability – the Sustainability Council. The formation of the Council will assure that implementation of the plan is investigated, pursued and measured. All of these elements will help assure that the plan has a broad reach and a solid chance to deliver the goals and develop the visions so strongly supported by the residents of Hawai'i.

We hope you will consider our support for and endorsement of HB2590.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

/s/ Bennette Misalucha Evangelista

Bennette Misalucha Evangelista  
Vice President and Regional Director of Community and Government Relations  
Actus Lend Lease

February 11, 2008

House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

HB 2590, HD1 Relating to Sustainability

Re: Written testimony in Support  
Susan Au Doyle, President & CEO, Aloha United Way

Dear Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

Aloha United Way supports and encourages your favorable consideration of HB 2590, HD1 which proposes adoption of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan and the establishment of a council to oversee the state's progress towards sustainability.

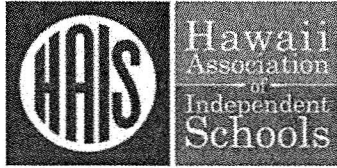
The process that the legislative Task Force employed in creating the plan was inclusive, and there is a great need for an integrated approach to improving the quality of life in Hawaii. Aloha United Way supports the vision of sustainability and the concepts included in the report, particularly those dealing with strengthening our social safety nets and our educational systems. In addition we believe that the establishment of the council will help to assure that the purposes of the plan are accomplished and the vision of a sustainable future is achieved.

We urge the Committees to continue to move the measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Susan Doyle





February 12, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

RE: HB2590 HD1 – Relating to Sustainability

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents approximately 100 private and independent schools and educates over 30,000 elementary and secondary school students across our state.

HAIS strongly supports the intent of House Bill 2590 House Draft 1, which is to adopt the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan and establish a governing body to coordinate and evaluate the plan's implementation.

We believe that it is extremely important that we, as a state, address questions about the long-term limits of growth in Hawaii and call attention to the need for collaborative planning and action to preserve the natural resources and way of life that are so unique to our islands. We also support the development of a more diverse and resilient economy so that, in the future, our children will have both the opportunity and ability to live and work in Hawaii as adults.

To that end, our association of independent and private schools has been involved in the planning stages of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. We have also been working with members of the Sustainability Task Force and other Hawaii 2050 supporters, such as the Department of Education, Girl Scouts of Hawaii and Kanu Hawaii, to come up with new ways to involve students in our state's sustainability efforts and, on behalf of our member schools and students, will continue to advocate for a more sustainable Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**HOUSE BILL 2590, HD1: RELATING SUSTAINABILITY**

**DATE:** February 12, 2008  
9:00AM., Conference Room 325

**TO:** House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns  
The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Lisa H. Gibson  
President  
Hawaii Science & Technology Council

**RE: Testimony in support of the intent of HB2590, HD1.**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HiSciTech) supports the purpose and intent SB2833 relating to sustainability. HiSciTech further supports that the task force include representation specifically from Hawaii's science and technology industry. HiSciTech also requests that should such a task force be formed, that a preliminary report be submitted in 2009 prior to the 2010 session. Accordingly, we offer for the committee the following amendments for consideration:

- (1) With respect to the appointment of membership to the task force, we suggest the following amendment:
  - The task force shall consist of eighteen members to appointed as follows:
    - Three members appointed by the president of the senate.
    - Three members appointed by the speaker of the house;
- (2) In addition to the list of organizations in the bill, we suggest that the bill specifically include those economic development and industry groups on the front lines of private sector lead economic development initiatives which are already collaborating on a number of cross-cutting issues.
  - The Hawaii Science & Technology Council; and
  - A representative from the Economic Development boards (Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Enterprise Honolulu on Oahu);

The Hawaii Science & Technology Council is a private tax-exempt 501(c)6 industry association with a 28-member board. The council serves Hawaii companies engaged in ocean sciences, agricultural biotechnology, astronomy, defense aerospace, biotech/life sciences, information & communication technology, energy, environmental technologies, and creative media.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Lisa H. Gibson  
Presiden

**Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns  
Hearing**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325**

**Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**



**Testimony on HB 2590 HD1**

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is in SUPPORT OF THE INTENT of HB2590, HD1. My name is Lynn McCrory and I am the President of PAHIO Development, Inc. We are a locally owned and operated time share development company on the island of Kauai.

HB2590, HD1 adopts the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. It provides for a sustainability Council to coordinate, implement, measure, evaluate the progress of the 2050 plan, and funds the Council from the general fund.

The bill provides for a large listing of what should be done by the Council through its Executive Director, and provides multiple committees that would certainly work on the work to be completed. What is not clear is what authority the Council has. Is it an Advisory Board? What decisions should the Council make? How often should it meet?

These details are very important to the concept of the Council succeeding and the 2050 sustainability plan being a reality. I humbly ask for your consideration to have a much further detailed role of the Council in HB2590, HD1. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana  
With warm aloha,

PAHIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn P. McCrory".

Lynn P. McCrory  
President

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 2590 HD1 Relating to Sustainability  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 9:00AM, Room 325

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.B. 2590 HD1 Relating to Sustainability.

The health of Hawaii's unique but threatened natural resources directly affects our economy and quality of life. Residents and visitors alike are awed and inspired by the Hawaiian Islands' natural wonders. Beyond breathtaking beauty, these resources provide essential natural services that make life possible in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean. From native forests that give us fresh water, erosion control, and cultural treasures, to abundant coral reefs that provide food, recreation, and protection from storms, we all depend daily on nature to sustain us.

Now more than ever in the past, we have come to appreciate the importance of balancing environmental protection with the obvious need to maintain a vibrant economy that supports and does not threaten the needs of future generations. The Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan provides a strong foundation, guiding principles, and strategic actions to help guide us toward the Hawai'i we all want for ourselves and future generations. The proposed sustainability council is an appropriate next step to lead the implementation of the plan and hold us accountable to achieving the goals set out in the plan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. David C. Cole Samuel A. Cooke  
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Guy Fujimura J. Stephen Goodfellow Thomas Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes Ron Higgins Peter Ho  
Stanley Hong J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr. Faye Watanabe Kurren Duncan MacNaughton  
Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles James Romig Eric Yeaman

## Sharon Sagayadoro

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**From:** David Goode [david@ksdhawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 12:03 PM  
**To:** EDBtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2590, HD1 Relating to Sustainability

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

I am a member of the Sustainability 2050 Task Force and part of the business community fabric of our islands.

I am writing today in FAVOR of HB 2590, HD1.

Like other business minded individuals, I am concerned about the ever increasing amount of "red tape" that businesses deal with on a daily basis. However, in the case of the subject bill, the Sustainability Council may have a relatively small budget, but will have no authority other than to be advisory to a whole host of government agencies.

Personally, I like the idea of a Council of unelected individuals being a "thorn" in government's side to move a myriad of initiatives over a long period of time. Government focus tends to be no longer than term limited administrations, and many issues require focus longer than eight years. Most of these issues need to get started today, and results should come sooner rather than later with an advocacy group like the Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

David Goode  
President  
KSD Hawaii  
8 Kiopa'a Street, Suite 201  
Pukalani, Hawaii 96768  
Phone: (808) 572-3011, ext. 206  
Fax: (808) 572-8378



February 11, 2008

**TO:** House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns  
**FROM:** John Flanagan, Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations  
**RE:** Testimony on **HB2590**, Relating to sustainability  
**HEARING:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 9 a.m. in Room 325

HANO supports HB 2590, implementing the sustainability plan and forming a council to monitor progress.

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations is a statewide and sector-wide membership organization that unites and strengthens the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. HANO members include more than 280 charitable organizations of all kinds that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. HANO members provide valuable services to communities on every island.

Hawaii 2050 is a dynamic and inclusive planning process, reaching out to all communities in a variety of settings to ensure maximum participation and communication. It is filling a critical need to develop a plan NOW for Hawaii's future that focuses on insuring a sustainable environment and economy while preserving our quality of life and the host culture's values.

The Hawaii 2050 Legislative Task Force has been working hard to develop this plan. It has held hundreds of meetings over the last two years across the State. Now the time has come for action and accountability. This bill creates an advisory council designed to insure that the sustainable progress is being made and the benchmarks are being met. The membership of the council is crucial.

# LIFE OF THE LAND

*Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono*

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
Phone: (808) 533-3454 \* E-Mail: [henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com)

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## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

Chair: Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Vice Chair: Rep. Glenn Wakai

February 12, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

### **HB 2590 (SB 2555) Sustainability**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own environmental and community action group advocating for the people and the `aina since 1970. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and by promoting open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

Many believe that everyone now simply ignores the existing Hawai'i State Plan, as it is toothless and outdated. It has no way of holding anyone accountable for anything. From their viewpoint, it is long since dead, useless, and outdated. They propose that the state may need something like the Sustainability Council to carry out the proposals in the 2050 plan. They suggest that creating accountability criteria for council work should be their first order of business, i.e., how do they account to the public, how often, according what criteria developed by whom?

The question is what role citizens play after the enactment of the bill. Individuals and groups intervening in the political and regulatory processes help to make government run more smooth. The problem with the Sustainability bill as the bill is currently drafted, is that the public could easily be neutered, resulting in a new dictatorial bureaucracy pushing its might around.

The House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) and Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs (WLH) issued a Conference Committee Report which noted several concerns with HB 2590:

(1) Whether the Sustainability Plan replaces the existing State Plan under chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

- (2) The many areas either uncovered or only sparingly covered by the Sustainability Plan;
- (3) The consistency and comprehensiveness of the goals, strategies, and indicators contained within the Sustainability Plan;
- (4) Whether the Sustainability Council would become yet another level of bureaucracy that may detract funds from essential health, human-services, public-safety, and educational needs during difficult economic times.
- (5) The many constitutional, policy, technical, and funding concerns remain.

However well intentioned, these bills as written would gut state law, expedite bad development, and allow really horrendous projects to ram their way through all safeguards. As such, they must be killed. SB 2833 even has a provision allowing legalized greasing (bribing). Show me the money and you can do whatever you want to.

Sustainability usually refers to small, local, self-reliant approaches. However, HB 2590 / SB 2555 does the exact opposite. It combines multiple agencies into one centralized bureaucracy.

The new bureaucracy shall handle multiple governmental functions by absorbing numerous entities. It will handle: state planning (Office of Planning, Energy Resources Coordinator); business promotion (Agribusiness Development Corporation); business regulation (Commission on Water Resource Management, Land Use Commission); land development (HCDA: Kalaeloa and Kaka'ako); and public information (Office of Environmental Quality Control)

Among its mandates would be: "Direct and coordinate ongoing public awareness and education campaigns"

This entity would be ranked higher than any other state and county agencies: "All state and county agencies shall cooperate with the department and render all assistance requested by the department in carrying out the purposes of this chapter."

The Sustainability Council leadership has inadequate representation of representatives from environmental cultural, and community groups.

In the mid 1970s Life of the Land successfully sued over Board and Commission members staying beyond their lawful terms. This bill would reverse that court action: "All members shall continue in office until their respective successors have been appointed and qualified."

There is nothing explicit in the bill in reference to sunshine, open government, open meetings, required hearing, contested case hearings, only the statement that: "All rules, policies, guidelines ... which are reenacted or made applicable to the department of planning and sustainability by this Act, shall remain in full force" The bill itself does not talk about "reenactment", "applicability", or anything else related to the public. In this sustainability bill, we, the public, are merely in the way.

This House/Senate bill has two companion bills in the Senate:



The provisions of SB 2832 (sustainable communities) contain automatic approval, but not public hearings, contested case hearings, or other community processes: "Any developer of a residential community with a development plan for fifty or more residential units ... shall have the option of developing the residential community in a manner that fulfills the criteria prescribed under this chapter. If a developer elects to be subject to this chapter, the developer shall be able, upon approval, to engage in an expedited permit process". The public is not part of the process.

The provisions of SB 2833 states that "The legislature finds that over the years, the Hawaii state plan under chapter 226 has become outdated and there is a lack of awareness of the goals embodied therein." ... and that the new **Sustainability Council** may: "Coordinate and implement the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan ... Revise and amend the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan every five years ... Contract for and **accept gifts or grants** in any form from any public agency or **from any other source**" ... "This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect its purposes"

Sustainability must include ethics. It must allow for multiple, diverse, dispersed centers of influence.

Mahalo,

Henry Curtis  
Executive Director

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Date: February 11, 2008

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair and members  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns

RE: House Bill 2590, HD1

This is a statement in support of HB2590, but against the amendment changing the effective date to July 1, 2020. This bill needs to be enacted immediately. Some of the questions raised in the standing committee report No. 273-08 are very legitimate ones that were also topics of discussion at the Sustainability Task Force Meetings. As a big island member of this Task Force, I have seen the struggle that went into trying to develop something that could at least START THE PROCESS and keep the work going on this massive task. It is not something that will be resolved overnight. The comments raised in the HD1 committee report can and should be responded to, if not by further input and amendments by your committee to the bill, then at least by way of further direction and assignment to the Council.

The alternative is to do nothing. And If you think of what Hawaii looked like in 1950 and what it looks like today, and if nothing is done to improve how we take care of what we have, I truly fear that there will be nothing recognizable in Hawaii that is "Hawaii" in 50 years. The only ones that lose when that happens, is ourselves, our children, and their children.

Mr. Chair and members of this committee, people out there are really worried about what's going to happen to these islands in the future and how are we going to sustain ourselves if we don't do some planning and begin to take some action now. This bill represents the widest possible representation of public input of any public issue I have ever seen, thanks to the legislative support of members like you. Too often efforts like this are under funded and fail before it even starts.

Many believe, including myself, that this state has reached its "tipping point" as far as population. The results are traffic congestion, higher prices for everything, and more tourists each year adding to the impact on public infrastructure and a fragile environment without any measures to replenish, restore, and sustain.

Please support this measure. Mahalo.

Millie Kim

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