



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
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TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

SB 2833, SD 1 - RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

LATE

March 26, 2008

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

We are a growing national confederation of fifty-three Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. The Association initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2833, Senate Draft 1, relating to Sustainability. This bill 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 Association strongly endorses this bill.

In 2007, the Association participated with the 2050 Sustainability Task Force when it joined with representatives of other Hawaiian organizations to form the Kanaka Maoli Working Group. The Kanaka Maoli Working Group reviewed preliminary Task Force findings and recommendations, and convened several meetings to develop recommendations that it believed were responsive to Kanaka Maoli concerns. We found the process to be gratifying; many of our suggestions were incorporated into the final Task Force report.

The Association agrees that unless our Hawai'i community takes proactive planning and implementation measures now, the growing pressures identified in this bill – a steady deterioration of public infrastructure; lack of affordable housing; continued reliance on a service-based economy; vulnerability of Hawai'i in a volatile global energy market; possible interruptions in travel and critical food supplies; threats to fragile island ecosystems; and ever-increasing numbers of residents and visitors – all of these pressures unabated will have devastating impacts on Hawai'i's quality of life.

We strongly endorse the proactive stance taken in this forward-looking legislation. We believe the creation of a sustainability council to help Hawai'i's citizens

develop a collective vision for the future and to assist with implementation to achieve that vision are critical to preserving and safeguarding Hawai'i's quality of life for future generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2833, Senate Draft 1.