



SB 2833 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

Date: February 11, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Room: 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2833, which would adopt the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and establish and fund a sustainability council.

The Hawaii 2050 Sustainable Plan, which was developed through several, intensive and collaborative efforts, shall serve as a long-range sustainability planning guide for the State of Hawai'i as well as measure the State's progress in meeting its sustainability goals and objects. This legislation takes seriously the work of the various working groups that developed this plan, and recognizes the immediate need to address long-term planning for sustainability in the State of Hawai'i due to the demands of population and development growth.

OHA notes that S.B. 2833 will set the pathway to long-range sustainability planning in a manner that incorporates Kanaka Maoli sustainability principles and values, such as the "Ahupua'a" management system. In 2007, OHA, representatives of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and other Hawaiian organizations and individuals joined efforts to share Native Hawaiian concerns with the 2050 Sustainability Task Force (Task Force). This joint effort formed a Kanaka Maoli working group to review the Draft Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and develop recommendations in response to Kanaka Maoli concerns. In its efforts, the Task Force responded to the Kanaka Maoli working group's recommendations and incorporated many of them into the final Task Force report. The Kanaka Maoli group found this opportunity to be an important step to assure Hawai'i's resources are protected and sustained for future generations.

OHA respectfully reminds the Committee that the State has a Constitutional responsibility to "conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people." (Hawai'i State Constitution, Art. XI, Section 1). Passage of this bill would be a good faith effort by the Legislature to the public that Hawai'i's Public Trust natural resources will be protected and perpetuated using precautionary methods. As such, it also meets the needs of OHA's beneficiaries and the State's Constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiians, because the State also has a Constitutional responsibility to "protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes" possessed by Hawaiians. (Hawai'i State Constitution, Art. XII, Section 2). These cultural rights and practices are predominantly reliant upon the sustainability of Hawai'i's natural resources.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS S.B. 2833. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2833-2050 **Sustainability Plan**
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
By Howard S. Garval, President & CEO
Child and Family Service
February 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
LATE TESTIMONY

I am Howard S. Garval, President and Chief Executive Officer of Child and Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest private, non-profit human service organization that touches the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents each year and serves over 20,000 directly. We are statewide with services on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, and Lanai. We serve all ages from keiki to kupuna with an array of services to:

- prevent child abuse
- strengthen families
- help adults and children heal and recover from domestic violence
- help youth with various challenges improve their functioning
- help our kupuna to live as long as possible in the community and support their caregivers

I attended the all day conference last year in August to kick off Hawaii 2050 and was excited about all of the people who wanted to ensure that Hawaii is a better place by the year 2050. I also attended one of the public input sessions at McKinley High School. I then attended the half-day conference at the Hilton when a draft of the plan was presented. I also provided input to HIPA (Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs) on the inclusion of social services and nonprofit organizations into the plan.

I am writing in support of SB 2833 not only because I believe in Hawaii 2050 and the importance of sustainability, but because there now needs to be a structure and funds allocated to ensure that this is not just another plan that sits on the shelf. With the large numbers of people who provided input and worked on the development of this sustainability plan, we owe it to them to put in place the mechanisms that will ensure that this plan becomes a living and breathing roadmap for implementation. There needs to be ongoing monitoring and real results that will move us in the direction of the vision that is articulated in the plan for Hawaii 2050. That is why the Sustainability Council and funds to support its work are critical to the success of the sustainability plan. Without a group that is tasked with the responsibility to ensure implementation and accountability, it is likely that all of the effort and energy will not produce the desired results. We cannot afford to have this happen.

I encourage you to support SB 2833 to ensure that the people of Hawaii will see sustainability in this beautiful place and that the people of Hawaii will not look back in 2050 and see a missed opportunity that never came to fruition.

Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to submit testimony.



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February 11, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Russell Kokubun,
Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB2833, Relating to Sustainability – Support intent
Date: Monday, February 11, 2008, 9 AM, Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Committee:

Last November, Castle & Cooke Hawaii submitted comment on Draft of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan (“Plan”), expressing our concerns that the proposal as is would add another layer of bureaucracy by creating a new quasi-governmental “Sustainability Council,” including a governing board, authority to hire an executive director and staff, appropriate powers to carry out the mission and dedicate a funding stream to support the agency’s activities.

We supported the establishment of the Sustainability Council, but we opposed the creation of a new government agency to administer the Plan. We suggested that the Office of Planning could be the logical fit to establish a sustainable council as part of their overall planning functions and purview. This agency, formerly the Planning Division of the former Department of Planning and Economic Development – functioned well and in a similar capacity for the Hawaii State Plan, for which the Draft Plan appears to be patterned after. The creation of a new government agency should not be considered when an existing one is available to provide administrative support. As such, we recommended that the Office of Planning be given the authority to establish the Sustainability Council within its purview and allow for additional staffing as needed to support the evolution of the Plan

Among other things, this bill proposes to administratively place the Sustainability Council in the Office of the Auditor until June 20, 2010, and then administratively transfer the Council to the Office of Planning thereafter, which we support.

We appreciate the considerable undertaking to engage dialog and gain input and perspectives from all areas, to identify opportunities to lay the foundation for how we might approach the future to sustain our great State of Hawaii.

We want to reiterate our concern regarding the importance of balancing "Triple Bottom Line Approach," espoused in the Plan. The Plan based its conclusions in which economic prosperity, community and social well-being and environmental stewardship are in balance. But in comparison to the number of goals referenced for each of these, there are 12 goals for "Community" (including "Way of Life" and "Kanaka Maoli" goals), six goals for "Environmental Stewardship," and only three goals for "The Economy." Clearly this is not a balanced approach for investing in our economic future. A healthy economy helps us to support a healthy community. Improving our economic sustainability insures our community's survival. We continue to be concerned about the imbalance of strategic actions targeting "The Economy."

Attached for your reference is a copy of our full comment to the 2050 Sustainability Task Force. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you, and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,
/s/
Harry A. Saunders
President

Attachment (1)



Transmittal Memorandum

November 9, 2007

To: Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force
C/o Office of the Auditor
Kekuanao'a Building
465 South King Street, Room 500
Honolulu, HI 96813-2917

Submitted Via Email: info@hawaii2050.org

From: Carleton Ching
Vice President –Community and Government Relations

Subject: Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan
Draft 1.0 - September 22, 2007

Castle & Cooke Hawaii commends the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force on the effort to bring forward the Draft of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan ("Plan"). We appreciate the considerable undertaking to engage dialog and gain input and perspectives from all areas, to identify opportunities to lay the foundation for how we might approach the future to sustain our great State of Hawaii.

The five integrated goals that have been identified provide a good framework to initiate and move forward this ambitious effort. While there may be some inherent and unavoidable conflicts within these goals, the true test will be how they can be reconciled and balanced to meet a mutually beneficial outcome of sustaining the economic, environmental and social equation within an ever changing global, national and local environment.

In the spirit of continuing dialog and input, we offer our comments for your consideration:

Using Demographic Forecasts to Balance Future Planning with the Present and the Past

We believe in preserving what we have today for future generations to enjoy, but we also know this must be balanced with planning for the future needs of a growing population. In 2030 Hawaii's population is expected to increase by

300,000 new residents and result in an increased demand on resources such as water. As our population and dependence on existing resources continue to grow, we must anticipate, plan and provide for a range of demands from new housing to new hospitals, schools and other infrastructure. The Draft Plan must consider the demands of growth.

We recommend that demographic forecasts for population growth, energy growth, and other growing demands should be overlaid on each one of sustainability initiatives. This forecasting normally is a function of the Department of Business and Economic Development ("DBEDT"). We recommend working with DBEDT to help pinpoint these growth areas.

In looking at how we can ensure that a 2050 Sustainability Plan will weather political, economic and cultural changes, we must look at how we can forge a marriage between our past, present, and future for these islands. We need a plan as wedded in our future as it is in our present and past in order to create truly sustainable options for our communities.

A Balanced Approach on Growing "The Economy"

We are concerned about the imbalance of strategic actions targeting "The Economy." The Draft Plan espouses a "Triple Bottom Line Approach," in which economic prosperity, community and social well-being and environmental stewardship are in balance. But in comparison to the number of goals referenced for each of these, there are 12 goals for "Community" (including "Way of Life" and "Kanaka Maoli" goals), six goals for "Environmental Stewardship," and only three goals for "The Economy." Clearly this is not a balanced approach for investing in our economic future. A healthy economy helps us to support a healthy community. Improving our economic sustainability insures our community's survival.

For years we have heard that the high cost of housing is a major problem even for those well above the median income, and the provision of affordable housing is largely made possible by the production of market-based housing. Through inclusionary zoning Government requires that a percentage of these units be affordably priced.

We recommend that a goal on "Housing" be added to the Economic Section. In line with the overall economic goal of creating an economy that enables us "to meaningfully live, work and play," (page 49, emphasis added), the provision of housing to meet our population demands is a major concern that needs to be addressed. We want to make note that affordable housing is covered in the Community/Social Well Being category on page 58 as a point under "Strengthen social safety nets", but there still needs to be a strong housing directive in the Economic Section.

As such, we recommend that a fourth Strategic Action be added in the Economic Section, along with supportive bullets, as follows:

“(4.) Provide an adequate supply of housing to meet the needs of ALL Hawaii residents of all income levels.

- Ensure an ample supply of Urban and county-zoned lands for housing;
- Support housing development in appropriate locations;
- Provide adequate infrastructure and public facilities to support housing;
- Facilitate development approvals and eliminate redundant regulatory requirements.”

Less, Not More Bureaucracy

Finally, we are concerned about a proposal to add another layer of bureaucracy by creating a new quasi-governmental “Sustainability Council,” including a governing board, authority to hire an executive director and staff, appropriate powers to carry out the mission and dedicate a funding stream to support the agency’s activities.

We can support the establishment of the Sustainability Council, but we oppose the creation of a new government agency to administer the Plan. The Office of Planning would be the logical fit to establish a sustainable council as part of their overall planning functions and purview. This agency, formerly the Planning Division of the former Department of Planning and Economic Development – functioned well and in a similar capacity for the Hawaii State Plan, for which the Draft Plan appears to be patterned after. The creation of a new government agency should not be considered when an existing one is available to provide administrative support. As such, we recommend that the Office of Planning be given the authority to establish the Sustainability Council within its purview and allow for additional staffing as needed to support the evolution of the Plan

Conclusion

Strategic planning and other similar efforts, require commitment and consistency to insure focused implementation towards intended outcomes. The challenge is that political, economic and social values, principles and hierarchies are constant changing dynamics. Initial goals face uncertainties and miss directives when incoming successors do not share the same vision.

Planning for an enduring legacy for our future is a difficult task, but it can be done. The Draft Plan is a good start, but we need to make further changes to make it a great plan for the future of our great State of Hawaii.

We thank you and the members of the task force for its work. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you. We applaud your work and thank you for continuing to gather feedback in an effort to refine the Draft Plan.