

JAN 22 2010

S.B. NO. 2532

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. During the 2005 special session, the  
2 legislature adopted Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005  
3 (Act 8), to create the Hawaii 2050 task force to review the  
4 Hawaii state plan and the State's planning process. The office  
5 of the auditor was required to prepare and submit to the  
6 legislature the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. In enacting  
7 Act 8, the legislature expressed its belief that government is  
8 responsible for resolving daily and immediate issues and public  
9 needs, while providing guidance to assure a sustainable future  
10 and outlook.

11           The creation of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan comes  
12 as the State faces a growing number of pressing issues,  
13 including the steady deterioration of public infrastructure, the  
14 lack of affordable housing, a continued reliance on a service-  
15 based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii in a volatile global  
16 energy market, possible interruptions in travel and to critical  
17 food supplies, threats to fragile island ecosystems, ever-  
18 increasing numbers of residents, and an increasing number of



1 visitors over the long-term. These issues all raise questions  
2 about the long-term limits of growth in the State and motivate  
3 the need to begin planning and action to assure Hawaii's future.

4 Clearly, a policy framework to establish sustainability as  
5 a state priority and ensure a coordinated and coherent approach  
6 to fulfilling the long-range vision for a sustainable Hawaii is  
7 needed. The mission of the Hawaii 2050 task force and the  
8 objectives of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan focus on the  
9 revitalization of the State's long-term planning process to  
10 better guide the future development of Hawaii. Addressing and  
11 solving issues critical to Hawaii's way of life and natural  
12 resources requires coordinated community efforts to produce  
13 comprehensive, long-range planning policies and actions.

14 In 2008, the legislature adopted Act 225, Session Laws of  
15 Hawaii 2008, asking the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of  
16 social sciences public policy center to review the Hawaii 2050  
17 sustainability plan and provide a definitive framework for  
18 policy makers including defined data, data sources, and  
19 benchmarks for each of the major goals.

20 The purpose of this Act is to implement the recommendations  
21 of the Hawaii 2050 update report, commissioned by Act 225,  
22 Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, to establish sustainability as a



1 state priority by adopting the Hawaii 2050 sustainability  
2 definitions, guiding principles, and goals.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . 2050 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

7 §226-A Findings and purpose. In 2005, the legislature  
8 enacted Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, to create  
9 the Hawaii 2050 task force to review the Hawaii state plan and  
10 develop sustainability policies to address the vital needs of  
11 the State through the year 2050. The office of the auditor was  
12 required to prepare and submit to the legislature the Hawaii  
13 2050 sustainability plan.

14 The task force developed a comprehensive sustainability  
15 plan that included guiding principles and five major goals for  
16 Hawaii 2050.

17 The purpose of this part is to set forth the Hawaii 2050  
18 sustainability policy, which shall serve as a guide for the  
19 future long-range sustainability planning of the State.

20 §226-B Definitions. As used in this part, the following  
21 words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the  
22 context indicates another meaning or intent:



1 "Ahupuaa" means a traditional native Hawaiian resource and  
2 behavioral management system that ensures respect for the air,  
3 land, water, and other scarce natural resources that make life  
4 sustainable from the mountains to the sea.

5 "Kanaka maoli" means native Hawaiians.

6 **§226-C Sustainability; guiding principles.** (a) As a  
7 result of a statewide community effort and engagement process,  
8 it was revealed that most Hawaii residents desire a balance  
9 between economic, cultural, and environmental concerns. Thus,  
10 sustainability in Hawaii is defined as a Hawaii that achieves  
11 the following:

- 12 (1) Respects the culture, character, beauty, and history  
13 of the State's island communities;
- 14 (2) Strikes a balance between economic, social and  
15 community, and environmental priorities; and
- 16 (3) Meets the needs of the present without compromising  
17 the ability of future generations to meet their own  
18 needs.

19 (b) The following principles or values are established as  
20 the overall theme of sustainability policy:

- 21 (1) To balance economic, social, community, and  
22 environmental priorities;



1           (2) To respect and live within the natural resources and  
2           limits of the State;

3           (3) To achieve a diversified and dynamic economy;

4           (4) To honor the host culture;

5           (5) To make decisions based on meeting the needs of the  
6           present without compromising the needs of future  
7           generations;

8           (6) To observe the principles of the ahupuaa system to  
9           guide resource management decisions; and

10          (7) To emphasize that everyone, including individuals,  
11          families, communities, businesses, and government, has  
12          the responsibility for achieving a sustainable Hawaii.

13          **§226-D Sustainability goals.** There are established five  
14          major goals that are designed to achieve a preferred future by  
15          the year 2050, which shall include the following:

16          (1) A way of life in which living sustainably is a part of  
17          daily practice in Hawaii;

18          (2) A diversified and globally competitive economy that  
19          will enable residents to live, work, and play  
20          meaningfully in Hawaii;



1 (3) Responsible and respectful use, replenishment, and  
2 preservation of the State's natural resources for  
3 future generations;

4 (4) A community that is strong, healthy, vibrant, and  
5 nurturing, thus providing safety nets for those in  
6 need; and

7 (5) An environment where Kanaka maoli and island cultures  
8 and values thrive and are perpetuated."

9 SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section  
10 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
11 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
12 the new sections in this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

Helen Eglar

Russell Koff

Norman Sakemoto

Jim  
Ray L. Acorn

By the

Enzanne Chun Oakland

Rosalyn H Baker

D

Will Eyo

Anna Tereadok

**Report Title:**

Sustainability; State Planning

**Description:**

Incorporates the definitions, guiding principles, and goals of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability task force report into the Hawaii state planning act, codified as chapter 226.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

