



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR
JESSE K. SOUKI
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
JESSE K. SOUKI
Interim Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 2, 2011
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1405
RELATING TO PLANNING.

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

The Office of Planning (OP) does not support HB 1405, because OP does not have the staff and fiscal resources to implement a statewide greenways system, the initiative is not incorporated in the Executive Biennium Budget, and the bill's smart growth concerns are already covered under current state planning and land use laws.

OP is a proponent of smart growth principles, and we believe that a coordinated, statewide greenways system is one way of achieving that objective. Unfortunately, OP cannot undertake new tasks at this time due to resource constraints and existing priorities.

However, your Committee will be interested in knowing that OP incorporates smart growth principles into its planning, land use, and Coastal Zone Management programs and activities to the extent that it is consistent with existing law. For example, preserving farmland is enshrined in article XI, section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution and Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 205-41, which is this legislature's declaration of policy regarding important agricultural lands. In addition, HRS Chapter 226, *Hawaii State Planning Act*, requires that decision-makers consider the following with regard to all major state and county activities:

- ensuring that more affordable housing is made available to very low-, low- and moderate-income segments of Hawaii's population;
- fostering a variety of lifestyles traditional to Hawaii through the design and maintenance of neighborhoods that reflect the culture and values of the community;
- pursuing an openness and responsiveness in government that permits the flow of public information, interaction, and response;
- fostering a variety of lifestyles traditional to Hawaii through the design and maintenance of neighborhoods that reflect the culture and values of the community;
- promoting integrated multi-modal transportation system that services statewide needs and promotes the efficient, economical, safe, and convenient movement of people and good; and
- facilitating the use of available vacant, developable, and underutilized urban lands for housing.

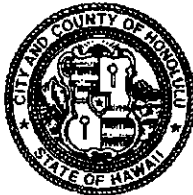
As required by IIRS § 226-53, OP will continue through its programs to provide technical assistance in administering the Hawaii State Planning Act, which includes the principles of smart growth enumerated in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041
DEPT. WEB SITE: www.honolulu.dpp.org • CITY WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



DAVID K. TANOUÉ
DIRECTOR

JIRO A. SUMADA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 1405
Relating to Planning**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** House Bill No. 1405, which would promote smart growth and sustainability in the state by requiring the Office of Planning to develop and establish a statewide system of greenways and trails. Greenways and trails are a key strategy for encouraging more active and healthy lifestyles, as well as more economical and environmentally-friendly means of transportation.

The legislation specifically calls for the creation of a system plan for statewide greenways and trails. Such a plan would provide enhanced predictability for local communities and the community planning process and would allow for more systematic planning, design and funding of greenway and trail projects. It would be helpful to disclose the purpose and scope of this system - i.e., to enhance scenic highways; create "softer solutions" for addressing storm water drainage flows; expand hiking, bicycling and horseback riding opportunities; and/or link parks and other open spaces via pathways.

Please pass House Bill No. 1405. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tanoue", written over a horizontal line.

David K. Tanoue, Director
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT:jmf
hb1405-GreenTrail-ba.doc

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting HB 1405 and a statewide system of greenways and trails

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Outdoor Circle (TOC) appreciates this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB1405

While Hawaii has many wonderful venues for hiking and experiencing the unparalleled beauty of our islands, a statewide hiking network planned in a systematic, comprehensive manner would greatly benefit visitors and residents alike.

HB1405 proposes that the Office of Planning (OP) develop a plan to create such a system in conjunction with the counties, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. While TOC is not certain whether the OP is the appropriate agency for this effort, we unequivocally support the intent of the legislation.

We therefore urge the committee to investigate the best possible mix of agencies and to consider including a citizen's advisory committee capable of developing such a plan and accordingly move it along in the legislative process toward passage and eventual implementation.

Please vote in favor of HB1405.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs