

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

SENATE BILL NO. 283  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

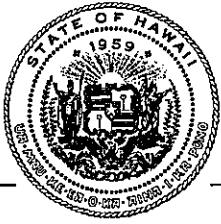
Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 283. The purpose of this bill is to incorporate the definitions, guiding principles, and goals of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability task force report into the Hawaii state planning act, codified as Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Agriculture supports the purpose and intent of this bill where it moves forward the mission statement of the department. The department is committed to the re-establishment of agriculture as essential to the well-being of our island society by rejuvenating the economy, protecting important resources, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food production and alternative energy development.

The department's mission is clearly in alignment with the *Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan's* Goal 2: The Economy to develop a more diversified and globally competitive economy which enables us to meaningfully live, work and play in Hawai'i and Goal 3: Environment and Natural Resource which guides us to utilize our natural resources responsibly and respectfully, replenished and preserved for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR  
**MARY LOU KOBAYASHI**  
PLANNING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
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Statement of  
**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
Interim Director, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**  
Tuesday, March 1, 2011  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of  
**SB 283**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Housing.

SB 283 establishes a new part to HRS Chapter 226, *Hawaii State Planning Act*, to incorporate the 2050 sustainability policy.

We support the intent of this measure but do not support this bill at this time. Among the duties of Office of Planning under HRS Section 226-53 is that it review and evaluate the Hawaii State Planning Act and recommended amendments as needed to the legislature. A comprehensive update of the Hawaii State Plan is long overdue. One of the top priorities of the Office of Planning under the new Administration is to undertake an update of the Hawaii State Plan. A review of the work of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force will be an important component in the work of updating the State Plan since a tremendous amount of work and public participation went into the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability effort and report. However, we need the flexibility to determine how best to incorporate the 2050 effort during the update. Therefore, we believe this measure is premature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Susan Chandler, Director

Social Sciences Public Policy Center

College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 283 Relating to Sustainability

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 283, Relating to Sustainability. I am the director of the Social Sciences Public Policy Center ("Center") at the University of Hawai'i and along with Dr. Sharon Miyashiro have been working on updating the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan ("H2050 Plan"). As you recall, the state's H2050 Task Force developed the H2050 Plan that identified crucial areas for future planning to revitalize the state's economy, protect the environment, and preserve the culture and quality of life for future generations. This plan set in place an important long- term planning process for Hawai'i's future.

In 2008, the legislature adopted Act 225 that requested the Center to review the plan, consult with citizens and leaders from across the state to prioritize the goals and objectives in the Plan, and develop benchmarks for each of the major goals. The Center has completed its work and submitted its findings to the Legislature in January (see the report on our website, [www.publicpolicycenter.hawaii.edu](http://www.publicpolicycenter.hawaii.edu)). Briefly, the report covers the following:

- ❖ Data gathered from email surveys and face to- face cross-sector meetings in each county, with representation from 10 major sectors of our community-- business, labor, the environment, kanaka maoli, youth, the military, the health sector, the non-profit sector, education and government (state and county level).
- ❖ developed a sustainability resource guide; and
- ❖ researched data sources and benchmarks.

The report proposed five major recommendations based on the voices of the community:

- ❖ **Incorporate the H2050 Plan definition of sustainability and its goals as a new section in Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.**
- ❖ **Develop and implement policies based on common themes heard across the state and counties in the cross sector dialogs.**
- ❖ **Support the continuing public-private collaborations, community discussions, activities, and work on sustainability efforts.**
- ❖ **Adopt measures of accountability, including data and data sources, indicators and benchmarks.**
- ❖ **Develop a sustainability coordinating entity to carry forward the H2050 Plan.**

S.B. 283 addresses the first recommendation. It provides for a sustainability policy to be incorporated in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. It puts into law the definition of "sustainability" that was adopted by the many thousands of citizens who provided input in the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, ie., "a Hawai'i that respects the culture, character, beauty, and history of the State's island communities, strikes a balance between economic, social and community, and environmental priorities; and meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." And further it provides seven guiding principles and five goals to achieve a sustainable Hawai'i by 2050.

We believe it is extremely important to continue the progress being made towards Hawai'i's sustainable future by putting this sustainability policy into the Hawai'i State Plan.

We would like to suggest some technical amendments to the bill for clarification; and have provided those suggestions as an attachment to this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions.



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[nature.org/hawaii](http://nature.org/hawaii)

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Commenting on S.B. 283 Relating to Sustainability  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 1:15PM, Rm. 225

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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 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 S.B. 283 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 benefits 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 Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan provides a strong and defined foundation for sustainability, guiding principles and values, and strategic goals and actions to help lead us toward the Hawai'i we all want for ourselves and future generations.

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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
**HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM**  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Testimony of  
Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Co-Chair, Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Tuesday, March 1, 2011  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

**Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum**

Ms. Stephanie Ackerman, The Gas Co.  
Mr. Robbie Alm, HECO  
Ms. Amy Asselbayer, Office of US Rep. Neil Abernethy  
Ms. Madeleine Austin, World Business Academy  
Mr. Warren Bollmeier, Hawai'i Renewable Energy Alliance  
Mr. Carlito Caliboso, PUC (Observer)  
Mr. Albert Chee, Chevron  
Ms. Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center  
Mr. Kyle Datta, New Energy Partners  
Ms. Laura Dierenfield, People's Advocacy for Trails Hawai'i (PATH)  
Mr. Mark Duda, HI Solar Energy Asst.  
Sen. Kalani English, Hawai'i State Senate  
Mr. Mitch Ewan, UH HNEI  
Mr. Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Hawai'i State Senate  
Mr. Mark Glick, OHA  
Dr. Michael Hamnett, RCUH  
Dr. Robert Harris, Sierra Club  
Mr. William Kaneko, Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs  
Mr. Darren Kimura, Energy Industries Holdings  
Ms. Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance  
Mr. Mike Kitamura, Office of US Senator Daniel K. Akaka  
Mr. Kal Kobayashi & Victor Reyes, Maui County Energy Office  
Mr. Laurence Lau, State of Hawai'i DOH  
Mr. Allyn Lee, C&C of Honolulu Dept. of Design & Construction  
Dr. Stephen Meder, UH Center of Smart Building & Community Design  
Dr. Sharon Miyashiro, UH College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center  
Rep. Hermina Morita, Hawai'i State House of Representatives  
Mr. Dean Nishina, Div of Consumer Advocacy  
Mr. Tim O'Connell, USDA-Rural Development  
Ms. Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates  
Mr. Ted Peck, State of Hawai'i DBEDT Strategic Industries Division  
Mr. Randy Pereira, Hawai'i State AFL-CIO  
Mr. Victor Reyes, Maui County Office of Economic Development  
Dr. Rick Rocheleau, UH HNEI  
Mr. William Rolston, Hawai'i County Dept. of Research & Development  
Mr. Peter Rosegg, HECO  
Mr. Steven Rymsha, KIUC  
Mr. Riley Saito, PowerLight Corporation  
Mr. Glenn Sato, Kaula'i County Office of Economic Development  
Mr. Bill Short, BIA of Hawai'i  
Ms. Joelle Simonpietri, Simonpietri Enterprises LLC  
Mr. H. Ray Starling, Hawai'i Energy  
Mr. Lance Tanaka, Tesoro Hawai'i Corp.  
Dr. Don Thomas, UH Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes  
Ms. Maria Tome, State of Hawai'i DBEDT Energy Office  
Mr. Murray Towill, Hawai'i Hotel Association  
Mr. Joshua Wisch, Office US Representative Mazie Hirono  
Mr. Alan Yamamoto, Office US Senator Daniel Inouye

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 283– Relating to Sustainability**

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair, and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum ("Forum"). The Forum is comprised of 45 representatives from the electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. We have been meeting since 2002 and have adopted a common vision and mission, and a comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan," which serves as a framework and guide for meeting our preferred energy vision and goals.

The Forum supports the passage of SB 283. This bill calls for amending the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add a new part, entitled "2050 Sustainability Policy." It incorporates a definition of "sustainability" for Hawaii that respects its culture and history; balances economic, community, and environmental priorities; and meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It also includes goals and guiding principles to achieve a sustainable future for Hawaii by 2050.

While the amendment does not include specific energy goals, its broad goals and guiding principles and its foundation in civic engagement are strongly aligned with the mission and vision of the Forum. We particularly support the inclusion of "sustainability" into state planning – which all of our counties and many organizations and individuals across the state are already doing and should be encouraged to continue to do.

The passage of SB 283 will codify sustainability policy, clearly defining "sustainability" for Hawaii, along with its guiding principles and goals. Incorporating sustainability policy in the Hawai'i State Planning Act will set the standard for Hawai'i's future – one based on responsible consideration of our state's natural assets and resources and of the quality of life for future generations.

Based on the foregoing, the Forum supports SB 283 and respectfully urges passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies or organizations.*

**THE SENATE**  
**THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 2011  
TIME: 1:15 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SB 283 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Honorable Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to enter *testimony in support of SB 283 with an amendment*. While I applaud the establishment of a policy that establishes key sustainability principles that include:

- (1) To balance economic, social, community, and environmental priorities;
- (2) To respect and live within the natural resources and limits of the State;
- (3) To achieve a diversified and dynamic economy;
- (4) To honor the host culture;
- (5) To make decisions based on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations;
- (6) To observe the principles of the ahupuaa system to guide resource management decisions; and
- (7) To emphasize that everyone, including individuals, families, communities, businesses, and government, has the responsibility for achieving a sustainable Hawaii.

We CANNOT wait until the year 2050 to implement this important sustainability policy and the amendment that I offer is one to immediately implement this policy following this legislative session. The current language would have us waiting another 39 years before we seriously address the sustainability of the limited natural resources of our State. We live on islands with finite resources that are in need of immediate stewardship measures and to delay such would be a travesty. We would be leaving a legacy of “uncontrolled”<sup>1</sup> development and growth in the name of our economic needs today leaving in inordinate burden upon future generations to figure out how to correct and remediate the oversteering and in some cases

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<sup>1</sup> By “uncontrolled” I mean, without administration of and compliance to a sustainability policy that requires that any development project will not violate the seven (7) sustainability principles identified in this policy that establishes a cornerstone to ensure sustainability of our natural resources.

SB 283 Testimony in Support w/Amendment  
Roy N. Morioka  
February 26, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

the exhaustion of our natural resources that will certainly adversely affect their quality of life and that of the generations that will follow.

It begins with a bold step by a sincere and committed legislature focused upon protecting our precious and in many instances unique natural resources by leaving a *legacy policy* (SB 283) for us today and for those who follow and NOT a problem for them to address in the future.

Additionally, I ask that you assess your commitment to our precious and finite natural resources as we continue to spend millions of dollars toward attracting more visitors because of our three-legged focused economy (visitor, military, and government) to a quickly disappearing "paradise." To date, we have also continually failed to properly fund the agency (DLNR) charged with the management and protection of our natural resources which are unique to Hawaii versus anywhere else in our United States of America and for that matter, the world.

Again in closing I thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support with an amendment to implement the measure immediately rather than in 2050. We cannot put off until tomorrow a sustainability policy that is essential if there is to be a tomorrow.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy N. Morioka

Cc: Russell Kokubun