



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

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Statement of  
**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
Director, Office of Planning  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**  
Friday, February 7, 2014  
8:35 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
  
in consideration of  
**HB 2518**  
**RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 2518, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB 2518 tasks OP with conducting a comprehensive review of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226, the state planning act, to include: (1) the analysis of a wide array of state policies and programs, county plans and programs, functional plans, capital improvements programs, and significant issues confronting the State with respect to the state planning act and its implementation; and (2) soliciting proposals for amendments to the state planning act from the general public pursuant to HRS § 226-54. OP is to submit a report with any recommendations to the Legislature prior to the 2016 legislative session. A sum of \$500,000 is appropriated for the purpose, to be expended by OP.

HRS Chapter 226 was enacted in 1978, after a multi-year, cross-sector effort to develop goals and policies to guide the development of the State and to establish an integrated planning and implementation system to deliver on those policies. The last review of HRS Chapter 226 was initiated in 1983 and completed in 1985, and resulted in the enactment of legislation to finetune the goals, policies, and objectives of Part I and priority guidelines of Part III of the state planning act.

Since then, there have been significant changes in Hawaii's economic, physical, and social conditions, technology, and the global marketplace, as well as in the constraints and opportunities the State faces as we plan for the future. Every legislative session there are individual bills proposing new policies and revisions to existing policies to address changes in our planning environment. A comprehensive review of the state planning act—with respect to how it aligns with current and emerging conditions and issues and its effectiveness in addressing the needs of Hawaii's people and providing for Hawaii's future—is long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SENT VIA EMAIL

February 6, 2014

Representative Clift Tsuji  
Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Business  
Representative Gene Ward  
Vice Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Business  
Hearing on House Bill 2518  
Relating to State Planning  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Vice Chair Ward!

As with all plans, over time, there is a need to review, fine tune and make necessary adjustments, to address the ever changing conditions around our State.

Enterprise Honolulu stands in strong support of House Bill 2518 and its intent for the State Office of Planning to provide updates with recommendations for amendments to the Hawaii State Plan.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Mark McGuffie  
Managing Director  
Enterprise Honolulu, Oahu Economic Development Board



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 6:34 PM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** stangonan@tnc.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2518 on Feb 7, 2014 08:35AM

**HB2518**

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 7, 2014 08:35AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	No

Comments: While the State Plan was amended in 2011 to include sustainability guidelines and again in 2012 to include climate change adaptation priority guidelines, a more comprehensive review and modernization of the State planning system is overdue.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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