

# SB2274

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING.  
**Report Title:** Sustainable Living Research; Permit  
**Description:** Establishes a permit that excepts sustainable living research and sites from certain county codes, ordinances, and rules.  
**Companion:**  
**Package:** None  
**Current Referral:** WTL/PSM, WAM  
**Introducer(s):** RUDERMAN, CHUN OAKLAND, ENGLISH, KEITH-AGARAN, Espero, Ihara, Kidani, Shimabukuro

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/17/2014	S	Introduced.
1/17/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
1/21/2014	S	Referred to WTL/PSM, WAM.
2/3/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL/PSM added the measure to the public hearing scheduled on 02-07-14 1:00PM in conference room 225.



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND, AND PUBLIC  
SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2014  
1:00 P.M.  
Room 225  
SENATE BILL NO. 2274  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

Chairpersons Solomon and Espero and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2274. This measure requires the counties of Maui and the Big Island to establish permits for sustainable living research sites on areas less than 15 acres. The Department of Agriculture has concerns.

This bill seeks to create a new permit at the county level to establish what appears to be permanent "sustainable living research sites" that promote a live-in environment that emphasizes conservation, waste re-use, organic foods, renewable energy, and shared living. These sites are not to be subject to all county codes, ordinances, rules, or permits. These sites are to be permitted uses within the Agricultural District.

The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to increase food production and promote agricultural education. However, we are uncertain as to the role and magnitude that agricultural activities and uses will have in these "sustainable living research sites". We are very concerned that these sites may evolve into urban-like areas over time. We recommend the counties, as they develop their ordinances and



rules for sustainable living research site permits, carefully scrutinize land uses and activities proposed in this measure that are not specifically related to agricultural production and activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



February 5, 2014

Senate Water and Land Committee

Meeting: February 7th 1pm

RE: SB 2274

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of SB2274, "Sustainable Living Research Bill."

As a board officer of the Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance, I support this bill as it will

- Promote community development through innovative sustainable research and implementation
- Update zoning and land use codes to reflect community, corporate, and government sustainable living goals and initiatives
- Meet seven out of the nine priority action steps for the year 2020 as defined by the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force

As a resident of Bellyacres Ecovillage and parent volunteer at the adjoining Seaview Performing Arts Center for Education (SPACE), which houses a Saturday farmers' market, charter school satellites for both the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences (HAAS) and Kua O Ka La, and the home of the renowned HICCUP Circus, I support this bill as it addresses the need to

- Create accessibility to affordable "green" housing
- Increase employment for small businesses and cottage industries that promote sustainability
- Promote employment and self-sufficiency to a new generation of young farmers
- Create innovative waste management solutions through reducing, repairing, reusing, and recycling
- Provide additional water conservation, alternative energy use, and sustainable living options for home owners and ecovillages

And finally, as a mother of six children ranging in age from 21 down to four-year-old twins, I have a great concern about the future quality of life for children in Hawaii. I strongly support SB2274 as I believe it will

- Improve our state disaster preparedness by researching and developing practices to alleviate impacts due to a state of emergency
- Provide additional protection for consumers from the disruptions in transport of supplies to Hawaii islands

- Reduce dependence on imports of food and energy by promoting locally sustainable alternatives

Mahalo nui loa for supporting SB2274!

Dena Smith Givens

Secretary, Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance



Senate Water and Land Committee  
Meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm

RE: SB 2274

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Our statewide organization with more than 650 members supported a similar bill (HB111) in 2013. It passed all three House committees. There is strong support statewide for bringing zoning and land use codes into compliance with the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan. SB2274 will make Sustainable Living Research Sites a permitted use on agricultural and rural land by amending HRS Section 205-2. It will only apply to Maui and Hawaii Counties.

Research is essential to establish that best practices are adopted in development plans for each of the diverse populations in the State.

We strongly support SB 2274 because sustainable living research will:

- Provide essential data for implementation of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, Act 8, 2005
- Improve our state disaster preparedness by researching and developing best practices to alleviate impacts due to a state of emergency
- Promote the development of think tanks focusing on sustainable research and development
  - Increase employment in small business sustainable enterprises
  - Promote the growth of small locally-owned farms that will educate and employ a new breed of young farmers
  - Reduce dependence on imports of food by promoting locally sustainable alternatives
  - Provide additional protection for consumers from the disruptions in transport of supplies to Hawaii islands
  - Alleviate landfill problems by increasing- reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, and re-educate
  - Increase real 'affordable' and sustainable green housing

We also fully support amending this bill to include all lots greater than one acre.

Mahalo for your support of this important bill,

Graham J. Ellis  
President – Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance  
RR2 Box 4524 Pahoehoe Hi 96778

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [bryanbrey@gmail.com](mailto:bryanbrey@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2274 on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 12:06:43 PM

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**SB2274**

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryan Brey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support sustainable living. Codes and regulations are out of sync with what is really needed here and what is already happening. Support our ability to survive and thrive. Aloha!

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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February 6, 2014

Attn: Water and Land Committee  
Strong Support for SB2274

Dear Members of the Committee:

Real water conservation is currently illegal in Hawaii; SB2274, in its provision of experimental sustainability sites, would allow citizens to practice true water conservation.

Hawaii's health codes – like those of most jurisdictions in the United States – require either a septic tank or a sewer connection. Such codes, though their intentions are pure, have led to a waste disposal paradigm that can be described as water-intensive, money-intensive, energy-intensive and – worst of all – unnecessary. Many new home builders like myself would like to forego blackwater altogether and install composting toilets in their homes. However, because state codes both (a) require a sewer or septic connection anyway, and (b) disallow people from building their own composting toilets, instead forcing them to buy pre-approved models at 15x the price of a water toilet, many builders give up and install water toilets. SB2274, in allowing exemptions from such codes, would incentivize builders like me to set up composting by making it far more affordable to do so.

Hawaii's greywater code, while well-meaning, also provides a roadblock to water conservation. While other states like Oregon define all non-toilet water as “greywater,” thereby allowing it to be returned to the land without government infrastructure (and therefore expense), Hawaii does not consider kitchen sink water to be greywater. Kitchen sink water must go into either a septic tank or the sewer lines. Here again, a builder is confronted with a legal requirement to create a septic or sewer connection; once such a connection is made, there is heavy incentive to hook everything else to it as well, since the connection / installation cost must be paid anyway.

It's unclear why Hawaii considers kitchen sink water to be blackwater. Food scraps can easily be filtered, removed and composted, if that is the concern. Most soaps actually provide nutrients to plants, but the point is often moot since people, especially on agricultural lots, wouldn't output anything in their greywater they even suspect might harm the health of their plants.

So there you have it: a paradigm in which no fecal matter ever touches water, water is never flushed down a toilet, and all water used in a household is returned immediately to the land. This paradigm is currently illegal, and SB2274 would make it possible. On behalf of myself and people like me who want a better, more affordable and more sustainable future, I plead that you pass SB2274.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Francis Howell



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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2274 on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 12:16:07 PM

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**SB2274**

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Pontius	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I would like you to support SB2274 To promote sustainable living research, To provide agricultural worker housing that meets the needs of part time student workers. To have the freedom to innovate, try a new way. To prepare for disruptions in our fragile food supply line and make this island, I have lived on for 37 years, stronger and less dependent. Thank you and Aloha

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Senate Water and Land Committee

Meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm

RE: SB 2274

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 2274 for these reasons

We don't need to build like California. Let's take advantage of what the aina has to offer as long as everyone's safety is a priority.

This will help save precious materials. Not only in the building process costing far less in fuel shipping to the island but also once the life span has been reached there will be a lot less to get rid of.

? Bullet point

I also fully support amending this Bill to include all lots greater than one acre.

Mahalo for your support of this important bill,  
Henrik Bothe

Senate Water and Land Committee

Meeting: February 7th

RE: SB 2274

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 2274 for the many reasons, including the following. Sustainable living research will:

- Improve our state disaster preparedness by researching and developing practices to alleviate impacts due to a state of emergency
- Promote the growth of small locally-owned farms that educate and employ a new breed of young farmers
- Reduce dependence on imports of food and energy by promoting locally sustainable alternatives

I also fully support amending this Bill to include all lots greater than one acre.

Mahalo for your support of this important bill.

Signed,  
James P. Tierney

# Lorn Douglas

RR2 4544  
12-7045 Kekainehe St.  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778  
(808) 965-8421  
lornd@yahoo.com

Feb 3, 2014

Committee Chair and Members  
Hawaii Senate

Re: SB 2274

Aloha,

I have lived in Lower Puna for 25 years. I am a retired businessman and am very active in my community. I sit on several Boards in the area.

The concept of sustainability simply implies living on the planet in such a way that our precious limited resources are used wisely and our planet remain friendly and habitable for generations to come.

I believe in sustainable energy, in fact I power my two houses and my two electric cars with my solar system. The surplus power I generate goes into the grid helping reduce the carbon emissions generated by HELCO. Since I am at the end of the electric line I also help stabilize the grid.

Mimicking California building codes in many ways are not in compliance with the reality of living on islands in the middle of the Pacific and considerably south of the mainland USA. This bill will pave the way for ALL the people, rich and poor to have the opportunity to live in harmony with our beautiful Aina.

Please, PLEASE support this bill and let this bill be heard.

Thanks for your consideration,



Lorn Douglas

Senate Water and Land Committee

Meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm

RE: SB 2274

Aloha Chair Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 2274 because sustainable living research will:

- Provide essential data for implementation of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, Act 8, 2005
- Improve our state disaster preparedness by researching and developing best practices to alleviate impacts due to a state of emergency
- Promote the development of think tanks focusing on sustainable research and development
- Increase employment in small business sustainable enterprises
- Promote the growth of small locally-owned farms that will educate and employ a new breed of young farmers
- Reduce dependence on imports of food by promoting locally sustainable alternatives
- Provide additional protection for consumers from the disruptions in transport of supplies to Hawaii islands
- Alleviate landfill problems by increasing- reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, and re-educate
- Increase real 'affordable' and sustainable green housing

I also fully support amending this bill to include all lots greater than one acre.

Mahalo for your support of this important bill,

Megan Blazak

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2274 on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 11:03:19 AM

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**SB2274**

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 7, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Kuykendall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Mahalo for considering this bill. I strongly support this bill as we need creative and flexible solutions to the lack of housing in agricultural areas to support sustainable living and agriculture. Please support this bill as a way to support the sustainable future of Hawaii.

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