

SB

1074

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SB1074

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

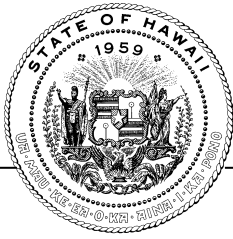
Testimony for WTL/EDT on Feb 9, 2015 15:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Mendes	Office of Planning	Support	Yes

Comments: See attached testimony file.

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OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Monday, February 09, 2015
3:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 1074
RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

Chairs Thielen and Wakai, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Slom, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Economic Development and Technology.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 1074, which 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 of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature prior to the 2017 legislative session.

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 fine tune 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.

SB 1074, specifies an appropriation amount of \$250,000 for both fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 in order to complete the comprehensive review. These funds would be required as OP lacks the staff and resources to undertake a project of this scope at this time. A rigorous evaluation of the State Planning Act will require an investment of public and private resources. Development of the original plan included thorough topic area studies, statewide collaboration, and input by subject matter experts. The office estimates that the proposed appropriation amounts in the measure would be sufficient to accomplish this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.