



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE**  
Friday, February 23, 2018  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 2545, HD 1**  
**RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committees on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports House Bill 2545, HD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB 2545, HD 1 appropriates funds for the state's sustainability coordinator to complete a comprehensive green infrastructure study and plan.

The Office of Planning notes some counties within the State have already begun planning for green infrastructure projects. The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to holistically and comprehensively identify green infrastructure opportunities, and green infrastructure planning and development best practices statewide.

The Office of Planning supports the creation of green infrastructure plans at the state level to generate strategies to enhance and preserve parks, agriculture, forest lands, and coastal areas. State green infrastructure plans, like this proposal, can also identify where the State can save on water management costs, decrease pollution, lower flooding risks, and address climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for HB 2545, HD 1.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Friday, February 23, 2018 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2545 HD 1, Relating to Green Infrastructure**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2545 HD 1**, which appropriates funds for the State Sustainability Coordinator to complete a green infrastructure study and plan, because it aligns with our goals.

The creation of a green infrastructure plan at the state level can help to coordinate critical green infrastructure needs and projects. The comprehensive plan will encourage departments across agencies to work more closely together. In addition, a plan will help stakeholders and legislators to focus on the most critical and impactful environmental projects. The plan should also identify the network benefits of the different infrastructure projects.

As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding is extremely critical to making Hawai'i a better place to live.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**HB-2545-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:52:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2545-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:41:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2545-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:07:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rafael Bergstom	Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter	Support	No

Comments: