



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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

in consideration of
HB 2547, HD 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

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

The Office of Planning (OP) supports House Bill 2547, HD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB 2547, HD 1 establishes the “Hawaii Sustainability Act,” including an office of sustainability, and a state sustainability special fund. HB 2547, HD 1 establishes a legal framework to serve as a foundation for the State of Hawaii’s sustainability practices in addition to the Hawaii State Planning Act’s sustainability priority guidelines and principles set forth in HRS § 226-108. HB 2547, HD 1 also establishes an office of sustainability within DBEDT and appropriates \$2 million in general funds to be deposited in a state sustainability special fund.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 226-108 and the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016, the Office of Planning recently filled a new sustainability coordinator position in 2017 to establish statewide sustainability planning and implementation of our state’s sustainability goals and policies.

The Office of Planning supports the development of a legal framework and foundation to assist the development and implementation of sustainability planning, practices, and projects statewide.

The Office of Planning notes that the introducer’s intentions were to establish this proposed office as an attached agency to the department, and offers the following amendments:

- 1) Establish the office of sustainability to be a part of the department of business, economic development, and tourism, for administrative purposes.

- 2) Require the director's appointment to be nominated by the governor and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, by clarifying the appointment process for the director of the office of sustainability, under subsection (b), page 7, lines 6-17 of HB 2547, HD 1:

The director shall be nominated by the governor and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor without regard to chapter 76 and shall be compensated at a rate determined by the governor. The director shall report to the director of business, economic development, and tourism, and shall not be required to report directly to any other principal executive department.

- 3) Allow the office of sustainability to create rules subject to HRS Chapter 91 by adding:

The office of sustainability shall adopt, amend, or repeal rules relating to matters within its jurisdiction in the manner prescribed in chapter 91.

- 4) Deleting the establishment of the State Sustainability Special Fund, while allowing the office to collect of investment earnings, gifts, donations, other income, rebates, grants, incentives, and capital appropriations. Should these funds be made available to the office of sustainability, the office may administratively establish a new account or fund pursuant to HRS § 37-40 and § 37-52.5.
- 5) Suggesting that the positions and operating costs be General Funded rather than Special Funded to save on personnel costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support on HB 2547, HD1.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2547, H.D. 1, RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or
Dawn T. Apuna, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to create the Office of Sustainability (Office), and to increase economic development, while developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables individuals to meet current needs and ensure that future generations can also meet their needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic, and community objectives through collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors.

This bill appears to duplicate some of the functions of the Office of Planning (OP), which is established under chapter 225M, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and is authorized to assist the Governor and the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical manner, including the conservation of those natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited and irreplaceable resources that are required for future generations. To avoid unnecessary duplication of services and programs, as well as potential conflict between the proposed Office and OP, this bill should establish the Office in purpose and programs clearly distinguishable from OP.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider these comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR

KEN N. KITAMURA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2547, H.D. 1

**February 23, 2018
2:00 p.m.
Room 308**

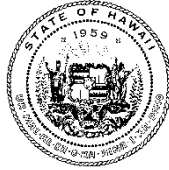
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

House Bill No. 2547, H.D. 1, establishes the following: the Hawaii Sustainability Act; the Office of Sustainability; and the State Sustainability Special Fund (SSSF). The measure also appropriates \$2,000,000 in general funds for FY 19 to be deposited into the SSSF to be expended on seven positions (six of which are newly authorized and one to be transferred from the Office of Planning) and to fund the operations of the new office.

The Department of Budget and Finance, as a matter of general policy, does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to House Bill No. 2547, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
February 23, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

HOUSE BILL 2547, HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2547, HD1. The State Procurement Office supports the intent of this bill and has comments on the state purchases sustainability goals.

Resources, support and training does not currently exist to assist state procurement personnel in conducting purchases with these multiple requirements. Deeper guidance, and clarification as to how the goals will be met will need to developed by experts in this area. Directing state to purchase under these requirements also does not include any resulting metrics or methods of compliance for this direction.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS CHIN
Acting Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai'i

DANIEL ORODENKER
Executive Officer

Bert K. Saruwatari
Planner

SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP
Planner

RILEY K. HAKODA
Chief Clerk/Planner

FRED A. TALON
Drafting Technician

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission
Before the
House Committee on Finance

Friday February 23, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 2547 HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Chair Luke; Vice Chair Cullen; and members of the Committee on Finance:

The Land Use Commission strongly supports HB 2547 HD1 in that it establishes the State Sustainability Act, the Office of Sustainability and the State Sustainability Fund.

Sustainability, and land use issues associated with sustainability, from climate change to creating healthy communities, are becoming more and more pressing. These issues are not single agency issues or even ones that individual agencies are designed to handle but rather cut across many different disciplines and responsibilities. The creation of this office and the associated coordination and guidance that the office will provide can be of tremendous value to the LUC in creating the policy and guidelines necessary to ensure that decisions made today will be supportable in years to come and will further the goals of coordinated and sustainable land use decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting with Comments and Recommendations
HB 2547 HD1 Relating to Sustainability
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 23, 2018, 2:00PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 43,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports HB 2547 HD1 with the following comments and recommendations.

In recent years, we have supported having a State Sustainability Coordinator position and we are grateful that the Legislature reestablished and funded the position for the FY18-19 biennium. We continue to support having that position in State government, including an appropriate operational budget to facilitate collective efforts and progress amongst government and private sectors on achieving shared sustainability goals.

Many of the State's and partners' goals for such things as clean energy, education, local agriculture production, economic and workforce development, and natural resource protection have been established and funded with important directive, authority and resources from the Legislature. We agree that having a position that opens lines of communication and collaboration amongst government agencies and into the private sector to facilitate sustainability actions and keep track of results can be very beneficial. This position can work across levels of government and the private sector to advocate for government and non-government efforts and help implement a consistent set of metrics we all can use as common measures and benchmarks toward individual and collective sustainability goals.

However, we are concerned with this bill's proposal for a rather large initial staff and budget for the sustainability office, particularly if it would negatively impact the resources and staffing necessary to implement other agencies' sustainability programs, including those of DBEDT and the Departments of Agriculture, Health, Transportation, Education, and Land & Natural Resources amongst others.

We recommend starting with more modest resources and later evaluating the effectiveness of the sustainability office and the appropriate capacity needed to achieve its coordination and facilitation role.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Brian J. Doyle Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Kris N. Kobayashi Eiichiro Kuwana
Kathy M. Matsui James C. Polk Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith (Chair) Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern



To: The House Committees on Finance
From: Brodie Lockard, 350Hawaii.org, 808-262-1285
Date: Friday February 23, 2018

In support of HB2547 HD1

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee members—

I am the founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org supports HB2547 HD1.

As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical.

HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:55:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation	Support	Yes

Comments:



Email: communications@ulupono.com

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

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2547 HD 1, Relating to Sustainability

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 2547 HD 1, which establishes the State Office of Sustainability and State Sustainability Fund, because it aligns with our goals.

For private sector and non-profit foundation funders, stakeholders, advocates, and the general public that is interested in environmental sectors such as local food, renewable energy, waste reduction, and better management of water, it is often difficult to navigate State government to get things done. This is especially true when multiple State departments are involved.

Ulupono has started to work with the City and County of Honolulu's new Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency to work across City agencies. We are confident that their efforts will successfully create better outcomes and we hope that a State Office counterpart can be placed into existence. If implemented, Ulupono will work collaboratively with this office to move needed public-private partnership projects and policies forward.

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,

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Kyle Datta
General Partner

Hawaii BioEconomy Trade Organization

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES / HAWAII STATE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: February 23, 2018
TIME: 2:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2547 HD1, RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Position: Strong Support

To the Honorable Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2547 HD1.

The Hawaii Bioeconomy Trade Association (HBETO) is a newly forming non-profit trade association with members engaged in the production or development of integrated food, energy, and waste-re-use projects to help the State of Hawai'i meet its ambitious renewable energy and local food production goals and mandates. At the 3rd Annual Bioeconomy Hawaii Forum held at the Capitol in January 2018, a maximum-capacity group of over 120 attendees from the private, public, and non-profit sectors convened to discuss opportunities and challenges to sustainable business producing integrated food, energy, and value-added products in Hawaii and to vote on priorities for policy and industry standards and facilitation.

We give testimony in strong support for HB2547HD1. Hawaii is in a unique location where the nature and the ever-changing weather and due to man-made climate change. Hawai'i is one of the most isolated areas geographically in the entire world. We must be prudent in our actions with sustaining grow in and out land in the most environmentally sound and way which provides for jobs opportunities which facilitates proper stewardship of our resources. In addition, we recommend adding language to call out rural communities, revitalization of agricultural land for agricultural uses (reference: ALISH Act and the Hawaii Bioenergy Master Plan), local food production, and the sustainable and economically viable integrated food, energy, and waste-reuse projects. We also recommend that the statute only call for re-use in addition to efficiency. The establishment of this office to coordinate efforts of sustainability with business which foster responsible grow and respecting and promoting domestic food supplies is vital. In addition, the voters on the Island of Oahu have given precedence for a City and County Office of Sustainability.

Many thanks for your time and consideration

Carl Campagna
Executive Director
Hawaii Bioeconomy Trade Organization
808-383-7699
Ccampa1@msn.com



Hawai`i Interfaith Power and Light

A religious response to global warming



To: The Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL)
Date: Friday, February 23, 2018
Time: 2:00 P.M
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Re: Support for HB2547 HD1, Relating to Sustainability.

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm an environmental scientist and Legislative Liaison for Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL). HIPL's interfaith community affirms and promotes responsible policy and effective action on energy and climate change. On behalf of HIPL, thank you for this opportunity to submit **Testimony in Support of HB2547 HD1** for the following reasons:

(1) Sustainability is an economic issue, as well as a social issue, an ecological issue, and an ethical issue grounded in our human identities, our justice traditions, and our spiritual values. Transitions can seem deeply unsettling if not overwhelming, but **we already have the traditional wisdom and the knowledge** to transition ourselves to a sustainable society.

(2) Unsustainable policies and practices will continue to decrease security and increase economic and environmental costs, both globally and locally, until we transition to a sustainable society. **The cost of doing nothing far outweighs the cost of transitioning!** Please do everything in your power at every opportunity to promote sustainability in Hawaii without delay.

(3) Mutual respect and good-faith collaboration will empower diverse stakeholders to respond sustainably to Hawaii's social, economic, and environmental challenges. **Please consider locating the Office of Sustainability within the Office of the Governor** for maximum collaboration opportunities.

With a sense of urgency for the effective stewardship of our community, our economy, and our environment, we rely on your leadership to help transition Hawaii to genuine sustainability without delay. As always, thank you for all that you do!

Aloha no,
Hawaii Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL)
Steve Lohse, HIPL Legislative Liaison, 808-499-5406, lohse@hawaii.edu

HIPL embraces the following goals:

- *raise awareness of the deeply spiritual nature of energy and climate challenges;*
- *advocate energy policies that promote conservation, efficiency, and renewables;*
- *provide inspiration, resources, leadership, and education for effective community action.*

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:54:40 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 7:40:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical.

-HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:15:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Nix	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical.

-HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:40:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:05:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical.

HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:38:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josephine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

-As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical.

-HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:42:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samuel John	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of the Hawaii Sustainability Act, Office of Sustainability and the State Sustainability Fund that will be adequately staffed and funded as a critical action for our state.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:18:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi,

HB2547 HD1 will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue.

Thanks for your attention

Severine

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:57:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Training on renewable energy systems is a key and necessary component for the success of our state's achievement of 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 204

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:15:53 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2547 HD1 which will help establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies, which is long overdue. As sustainability issues become ever more complex and important, having a dedicated office with adequate staffing and funding will be critical. Hawaii has an opportunity to become a leader of success sustainability for America. Funding change in a smart and effective way can help protect the islands we love so much.

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:42:30 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:58:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:07:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:07:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2547-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:22:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

LATE

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 23, 2018
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 2547, HD 1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports the intent** of House Bill 2547, HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB2547, HD1, establishes the Hawaii Sustainability Act, including an office of sustainability, and a state sustainability special fund. DBEDT offers the following comments and amendments.

DBEDT supports the development of a legal framework to serve as a foundation for the State of Hawaii's sustainability practices, in addition to the Hawaii State Planning Act's sustainability priority guidelines and principles set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes §226-108. HB2547, HD1, also establishes an Office of Sustainability with seven permanent positions within DBEDT and appropriates \$2 million in general funds to be deposited in a state sustainability special fund.

If the committee intends to move this measure forward, DBEDT suggests the following **amendments**:

- 1) Establishing the Office of Sustainability to be a part of the Department of Business and Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes, using the following language to amend subsection (a), page 6, of HB2547, HD1:

- (a) There is established within the department of business, economic development, and tourism, an office of sustainability, for administration purposes, to increase economic development, while developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables individuals to meet current needs and ensures that future generations can also meet their needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic, and community objectives through collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors.
- 2) Clarifying the appointment process for the director of the office of sustainability, under subsection (b), page 7, of HB2547, HD1:
- (b) The director shall be nominated by the governor and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor without regard to chapter 76 and shall be compensated at a rate determined by the governor. The director shall report to the director of business, economic development, and tourism, and shall not be required to report directly to any other principal executive department.
- 3) Allowing the office of sustainability to create rules subject to Chapter 91 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- The office of sustainability shall adopt, amend, or repeal rules relating to matters within its jurisdiction in the manner prescribed in chapter 91.
- 4) Deleting the establishment of the State Sustainability Special Fund, while allowing the office to collect of investment earnings, gifts, donations, other income, rebates, grants, incentives, and capital appropriations. We note that if funds are made available to the office of sustainability, the office may administratively establish a new account or fund pursuant to HRS §37-40 and §37-52.5.
- 5) Suggesting that the positions and operating costs be General Funded rather than Special Funded to save on personnel costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of HB2547, HD1.



O'ahu
Chapter

[Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter](#)

Web: oahu.surfrider.org

Contact: rbergstrom@surfrider.org

Mail: P.O. BOX 283092 Honolulu, HI, 96828

LATE

HB 2547: In Strong Support
Committee On Finance
DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2018
TIME: 2PM
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the FIN Committee,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, I am writing to you in strong support of HB 2547 and the movement to develop a State sustainability office. As a non-profit with a deep focus on environmental sustainability, Surfrider is in favor of having a stronger voice in the State Legislature. The issues in our State and around the globe are mounting as populations surge, tourism expands, the need for food & water increase, and the effects of climate change continue to mount. Currently our State government has a sporadic record of addressing these pressing issues – this isn't just for a lack of political will, but also because it is such a large issue that an office unto itself is now necessary. DLNR is tasked with managing natural resources and enforcing certain laws, but the ultimately an office working on progressive action towards sustainability is sorely needed to supplement the great work already being done by other State agencies.

The citizens of Honolulu recently added a similar office of Climate Change, Resiliency and Sustainability through the charter commission – ultimately speaking to the fact that our communities are in full support of our government taking leadership on these issues. With mandates in our energy sector to become more sustainable, having dedicated staff working towards this innovation will be imperative to its success. Additionally, we are already seeing the increased effects of sea level rise around our islands and the same ingenuity and dedicated progressive action will be needed to keep our public trust intact. Our shorelines, our streams, our mountains, and the vast array of resources that we rely on for our livelihood and lifestyle are at stake.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider this measure.

With Aloha,
Rafael Bergstrom
O'ahu Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 23, 2018 2PM Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB2547** Relating to Sustainability

Aloha Chairwoman Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports the intent of HB2457**, establishing a new office of sustainability. We offer the following suggestions for improving this proposal.

The Sierra Club exists to ensure we establish and enforce protections for the natural environment, ensuring our water is clean, our air is pure, and our soil is healthy.

To this end we support the intent of of this bill to create “a stronger policy framework for advancing Hawai'i's sustainability goals,” as articulated in Act 181, SLH 2011. However, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is not the best fit for housing this office. According to their website, DBEDT's mission is to achieve:

a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation and is globally competitive, dynamic and productive, providing opportunities for all Hawaii's citizens. Through our attached agencies, we also foster planned community development, create affordable workforce housing units in high-quality living environments, and promote innovation sector job growth.

While this is an extremely important mission, it does not indicate any expertise in the sustainability goals and needs of the state of Hawai'i. We recommend establishing such a coordinating functioning in the Office of Environmental Quality and Control, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, or perhaps in a new agency created to better protect our environment.

In 1976, LRB published possible frameworks for the Government Reorganization Commission to consider. While the report noted that environmental protect was an “emerging concern of

government that might well be institutionalized with a single department embracing these programs.”¹

In 1985, LRB published “The Feasibility of Environmental Reorganization for Hawai‘i.” This report identified many problems with the current structure including failure to prioritize environmental policies, lack of statewide planning and coordination, and inadequate funding resources. The report concluded that:

a separate department should eventually be established, not because of coordination needs, but because the State must place greater emphasis on pollution control programs to be prepared for contamination problems of the future. ... A new department should help to develop this approach by bringing together the necessary expertise to examine problems from a total environmental perspective.²

In 1996, the Office of the Governor published “Restructuring State Government Services: Findings and Recommendations” in response to Act 297, SLH 1996. This report analyzed an overall reorganization of all state agencies for efficiency and effectiveness. Even in this report not focused on environmental concerns, the report authors identified the need to “restructure the State’s role in environmental protection and resource conservation and stewardship.”³

Most of the factors informing the various recommendations to centralize environmental protection efforts into one agency over the last 40 years remain true today, if only more intense. The challenges of the climate crisis and instability at the federal level executive branch makes the case for a re-alignment of agency mission and task to protect our environment all the more urgent.

For these reasons, we strongly urge this committee to amend and pass HB2457.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Marti Townsend
Chapter Director

¹ “State Executive Branch: Government Reorganization Commission,” Legislative Reference Bureau, JK9340-O7-H38 (1976), addendum 1, page 3.

² “The Feasibility of Environmental Reorganization for Hawaii,” Legislative Reference Bureau, Report No. 1 (1985) page 80-81.

³ “Restructuring State Government Services: Findings and Recommendations,” Office of the Governor, Act 297, SLH 1996, page 4-4.