



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 4, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2670 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.
Conference Room 16, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed bill, as it aligns with the department's transformation efforts and mission to encourage self-sufficiency and support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to codify sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal two, zero hunger.

DHS has a large stake in ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is a 100 percent federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service (FNS), provides crucial food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households. In state fiscal year 2017, DHS provided SNAP benefits to an average of 170,850 clients per month, totaling approximately \$483,064,100 in annual benefits. Research shows that every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generates as much as \$9 of economic activity to the local economy.

In 2016, DHS initiated its 'Ohana Nui framework by adopting a multigenerational approach to transform the way services are provided to individuals and families to improve

outcomes and well-being. By providing programs and services that maintain a high level of service integration, quality, and intensity across multiple generations, DHS intends to reduce intergenerational poverty in the State, and the human and financial costs associated with poverty.

One of the pillars of the 'Ohana Nui framework is food and nutrition. According to the American Public Human Services Association, an estimated 42.2 million Americans live in food-insecure households, of which 13 million are children. A growing body of research demonstrates the negative consequences of food insecurity for children's health and developmental outcomes, including cognitive development and school achievement, socio-emotional development, and overall health. Despite SNAP's positive impact, food insecurity remains a serious problem for millions of American households including those in Hawaii. As a State there is likely more we can do to enhance our collective efforts to increase access to healthy food and improve the overall health and well-being of our communities.

As part of the DHS mission to transform the way we deliver benefits and services, and as part of the Governor's package, DHS proposed HB2366/SB2793 which requires DHS to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

Additionally, DHS is engaged in its first departmental strategic plan to improve overall program outcomes and establish outcome measures of services for children, parents, and families geared to reduce adverse risks and increase protective factors that promote educational attainment and wage progression that lead to economic self-sufficiency. One of the key objectives of the strategic plan is to increase access to food.

The proposed SB 2663 furthers the goals of DHS as we transform to an integrated service delivery system with a focus on supporting every recipient's human potential, ending hunger, reducing incidences of intergenerational poverty, and improving the community's overall health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

SB-2663

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 10:41:23 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:



February 5, 2018

The Oahu Economic Development Board supports SB2663 to adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #2, into state law. This is a significant opportunity to highlight Hawai'i's sustainability leadership, and catalyze new partnerships and resources to support local action. We recommend adopting all 17 SDGs, as reflected in SB2661, and acknowledge discussion on the appropriate placement in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The SDGs provide a global blueprint to balance environmental, social, and economic priorities, which embodies Hawai'i's mālama ethic and systems-based approach to resource management. Senator Kenneth Brown's 1973 speech eloquently conveys a guiding framework to Mālama Hawai'i, calling forth the vision of SDGs. Through SDGs, Hawai'i can partner with other local communities around the world to support place-based action that drives global sustainability outcomes.

The SDGs can support locally and culturally appropriate implementation of sustainability goals through the *Aloha+ Challenge* (SCR 69), Sustainable Hawai'i, 100 Resilient Cities, Promise to Pae 'Āina, and other efforts. This builds on the recent adoption of the Paris Agreement (Act 32) and the inspiring Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle'a. Progress on Hawai'i's statewide sustainability commitment is being tracked through the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, highlighting collaboration and action towards the global agenda.

The Oahu Economic Development Board priorities include moving the state towards energy independence and food independence. This priority aligns with the SDG #2, zero hunger. The SDGs intersect with key cross-cutting issues in Hawai'i, and acknowledge that none of these can be achieved without consideration for the others

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

Sincerely,

Pono Shim
President and CEO
Oahu Economic Development Board

