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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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
10:08 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 221

in consideration of
SB 2665
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning supports SB 2665 Relating to Sustainable Development Goals. SB 2665 seeks to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 344, the State's Environmental Policy, to codify one of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, a group of 17 goals to transform our world; SB 2665 specifically seeks to codify UN Sustainable Development Goal, global goal 4, to ensure quality education by 2030.

The Office of Planning appreciates the adoption of global goal 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all throughout the State of Hawaii by 2030.

The Office of Planning recommends amendments to codify this proposal in Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 226, the Hawaii State Planning Act, to be consistent with HRS § 226-108, the State's sustainability priority guidelines and principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 21, 2018
10:08 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2665
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2665. This bill codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nation's Global Goal four, quality education. The Department supports this bill.

This bill provides for sustainable development through substantially increasing the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment and developing young leaders. The Department supports these efforts as it relates to a sustainable future for Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

February 18, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2665 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 10:08 a.m.
Conference Room 211, 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 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 four, relating to quality education.

DHS has a large stake in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program of DHS, for example, currently serves more than 1,600 children statewide, and provides child care subsidies to eligible low- and moderate-income families to pay preschool tuition. The program aims to provide children whose families might otherwise not be able to afford preschool the opportunity to gain essential skills to be successful in school and in life.

Through the department's First to Work and Employment & Training programs, DHS provided education-related benefits to approximately 160 individuals in state fiscal year 2016 to pay for credit and non-credit courses, training courses, certification courses, books, supplies, uniforms, tools, and other education-related items. Additionally, the Social Services Division of DHS provides higher education and other supports for former foster youth.

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 education and economic stability. According to the Aspen Institute, investments in high-quality early education yield a 7-10 percent per year return on investment based on increased school and career achievement as well as reduced social costs. At the same time, parents who complete a college degree double their incomes. A parent's level of educational attainment is also a strong predictor of a child's success.

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 SB2793/HB2366 (see current House measure: HB1926 HD1) 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 support early childhood development and school readiness.

The proposed SB 2665 furthers the goals of DHS as we transform to an integrated service delivery system with a focus on supporting every recipient's human potential; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education; promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; reducing incidences of intergenerational poverty; and improving the community's overall health and well-being.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2018 at 10:08 a.m.

By
Jan Gouveia
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2665 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2665. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports the high-level and overarching vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as presented in this legislation.

The SDGs intersect with key cross-cutting issues in Hawai'i, and acknowledge that none of these goals can be achieved without consideration for the others. The University is in the process of building a statewide directory of Sustainability Scientists, Scholars and Practitioners that will be searchable by SDG, research interest, and other keywords to improve access to subject matter expertise across the spectrum of sustainability, climate change and resiliency issues.

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, which the University has supported by providing subject matter expertise throughout its development over the past three years.

As the State of Hawai'i's only public institution of higher education, the University's core mission strongly aligns with SDG #4 Quality Education, which SB 2665 seeks to advance. The University partners with our local communities and other communities around the world to support place-based action that drives global sustainability outcomes, and looks forward to working with the legislature to advance the State's sustainable development goals through quality education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2665.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2665, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 10:08 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2665, relating to sustainable development goals.

Education is recognized as a fundamental human right in the most foundational human rights documents of international law. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

- (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Similarly, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Convention on the rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination enshrine education as a fundamental right for all humankind, without which the enactment and protection of other rights, whether natural or legal, are impossible.

In Hawai'i, our education system is improving, but fails to meet the basic needs of all children. Only 37 percent of special education students spend 80 percent of their time in a regular education setting, for example, well below the national average of 62 percent. Only 46 percent of English language learners, moreover, graduated from high school in 2015-2016. Similarly, only 14 percent of Native Hawaiian students complete post-secondary education or training, in part because of our continued failure to understand and address the cultural needs of Hawai'i's indigenous and continually occupied people. Native Hawaiian students, sadly, are more likely than students from other ethnic backgrounds to have inexperienced, unqualified, and out-of-field teachers, despite Native Hawaiians being the largest ethnic group represented in the Hawai'i State Department of Education's student enrollment totals. Establishing education as an inalienable right, then, guarantees that public policy will be directed toward the furtherance and protection of a well-informed and healthy citizenry, upon which the success of our democratic systems of governance and public legal instruments depend.

We need housing now. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

SB-2665

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:50:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

10:08 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2665 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2665 relating to Sustainable Development Goals Goal Four: Quality Education.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No.2665 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No.2665 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, quality education.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that the future of our state, as well as our country, depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st-century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed safe environments.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the state's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified individuals to be teachers and administrators for our educational system. We also support and value the universities and colleges that prepare educators 308 and provide advanced degrees. (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-308 (2016)).

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations.. (Platform of the DPH, P.6, Lines 310-314 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2665 codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, quality education, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

