

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

LATE

February 4, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018 at 1:25 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed bill, as it aligns with the department's significant investment in its IT infrastructure, our mission to encourage self-sufficiency, and supports 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 nine, relating to industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

According to the United Nations, investment in infrastructure, and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development, and DHS has a large stake in promoting economic growth for Hawaii's residents. DHS provides benefits and services to one in four Hawaii residents, or nearly 360,000 individuals. We manage an annual budget of nearly \$3.3 billion to provide benefits and services relating to homelessness, education, employment, health care, child care, protective services, vocational rehabilitation services, and food security.

DHS provides employment supports such as cash assistance, child care subsidies, job training, wage subsidies, and transportation benefits from the Benefit, Employment, and

Support Services Division (BESSD); vocational rehabilitation services from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); and higher education and other supports for former foster youth from the Social Services Division (SSD).

To provide these benefits and services to Hawaii's vulnerable residents, DHS processes vast amounts of information on a daily basis. Signed into law by President Barack Obama, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, initiated and provided the bulk of the financing that supported the upgrading of the 30 year old DHS legacy systems to the DHS Integrated Enterprise System. The initial investment resulted in KOLEA, the eligibility determination system that processes on-line Medicaid applications in 24-48 hours.

DHS continues to invest in significant IT infrastructure improvements that will result in an integrated IT system to improve ease and access by individuals and staff, improve data analytics, and will result in improved service delivery, individual, and program outcomes.

With a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, the integrated eligibility system will enable Hawaii's individuals and families to apply for the benefits and services online, via a streamlined application process, eliminating the need for the applicant to submit multiple applications.

The Legislature's commitment to sustainable investment in industry, innovation, and infrastructure are in line with the goals of DHS as we transform to support every recipient's human potential and end intergenerational poverty.

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



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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 5, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND
TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY ON SB 2670
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Room 414
1:25 pm

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB agrees with the intent of SB 2670, which would establish sustainable development goals relating to industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

These are very worthy goals; however, as with many difficult tasks, the details which will enable the State to achieve those goals must be considered. If we really want to commit to accomplish these ambitious objectives, we need to ascertain our priorities and determine how they will be funded and implemented. HFB believes that priority should be given to measures that will make the most difference for Hawaii's people and environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

LATE

February 5, 2018

The Oahu Economic Development Board supports SB2670 to adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #9, 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 retaining existing businesses in Hawai'i and assisting in their health and where possible expansion. Attracting new high value businesses to Hawai'i, including the growth of knowledge based companies. Facilitating progress on such infrastructure and planning issues that involve land, water and permitting in order to move the state towards energy independence and food independence. Participating with other organizations in workforce development planning to ensure that Hawai'i residents have the skills necessary to compete in a global economy. These priorities align with the SDG #9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. 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

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