

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2676  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Senate Bill 2676 proposes to build on the statewide actions of the Aloha+ Challenge, the governor's Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative, and other initiatives inspired by the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage and Malama Hawai'i and codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal fifteen, life on land. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and its intentions as it relates to forest and natural resource management.**

The goals stated by the measure are core to the mission of the Department, including:

- Ensuring the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their uses;
- Promoting the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests, and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation statewide;
- Restoring degraded land and soil through reforestation;
- Ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development;
- Promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promoting appropriate access to such resources;
- Taking urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halting the loss of biodiversity, and protecting and preventing the extinction of threatened species;

- Taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and addressing the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
- Implementing Hawai'i's interagency biosecurity plan;
- Integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into state and local planning, development processes; and
- Mobilizing significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to advance conservation and reforestation.

The Department defers to the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council regarding the suitability of Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as the implementing statute for these Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | 235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813 | oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT GLENN  
DIRECTOR

(808) 586-4185

Testimony of  
**SCOTT GLENN, Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 2676**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) administers Chapter 343, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). The purpose of the EIS law is to "establish a system of environmental review which ensures that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations" (HRS § 343-1). Additionally, the OEQC serves "the Governor in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental quality control," as directed in HRS § 341-3.

Senate Bill 2676 proposes to codify sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal fifteen, life on land, into HRS Chapter 344, State Environmental Policy.

Chapter 344, HRS, is an integral statute to the environmental review process. Adding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may have unintended effects on the EIS process.

Because the SDGs encompass more than environmental policy and are intended to affect policymaking and planning, perhaps HRS Chapter 226, the Hawai'i State Planning Act, could be a potential statute for housing the SDGs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**JANUARY 31, 2018  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2676  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

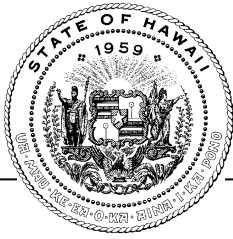
Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2676. This bill codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nation's Global Goal fifteen, life on land. The Department supports this bill.

This bill provides for sustainable development by ensuring the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their uses. This bill also states to implement the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan by 2027. The Department support these efforts as it relates to a sustainable future for Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# 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  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**SB 2676**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 2676 Relating to Sustainable Development Goals. SB 2676 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 2676 specifically seeks to codify UN Sustainable Development Goal, global goal 15, to sustainably manage the life on land by 2030.

The Office of Planning appreciates the adoption of global goal 15 to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss throughout the State of Hawaii by 2030.

The Office of Planning recommends codifying this proposal in Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 226, the Hawaii State Plan, to be consistent with HRS § 226-108, the State's sustainability priority guidelines and principles of the Hawaii State Plan. The Office of Planning also recommends adding the goals of the State of Hawaii's 2050 Sustainability Plan into SB 2676.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Environmental Caucus**  
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 30, 2018

To Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2676 Relating to Sustainable Development – Life on Land  
Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:45 p.m. Room 224

Position: SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports SB 2676, which is intended to begin the implementation in Hawai'i of one set of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely the goals relating to Life on Land. We thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB 2676 sets a series of benchmark deadlines and goals that are intended to strengthen what we should already be putting at the heart of our public policy agenda, i.e. protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss. Because these efforts are unlikely to be spearheaded by the current federal administration, we need to take the lead at the state level.

We also need to embed language in Hawaii Revised Statutes that enables us to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna. Success in these efforts will require that we systematically integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into state and local planning, development processes, and poverty reduction strategies.

But actual deeds must soon follow these noble statements of goals. Otherwise, these will be yet more empty promises that will join the myriad empty promises that we already have in our statute books.

Alan B. Burdick, Chair  
Environmental Caucus  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com)/ 486-1018

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:51:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:



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January 31, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2676**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 2676, establishing sustainability goals for land-based activities

The implementation steps are specified. However, as with many difficult tasks, the details, which make it happen are not defined. Metrics to define how these projects will be funded will be critical to realize the goals.

HFB agrees that these are worthwhile goals. However, HFB is concerned about how they will be funded and how priorities will be set, so measures that will make the most difference for Hawaii's people and environment are provided the highest urgency for accomplishment.

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



**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 12:23:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shyla Moon		Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose any influence of the United Nations. We do not need them. Waste of our time and money.

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:16:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charles Prentiss		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:39:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

2:45 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**RE: Testimony in Support** of SB 2676, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2676, relating to sustainable development goals regarding Life on Land as detailed in United Nation's Global Goal Fifteen. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2676 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2676, is in alignment 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 Fifteen, Life on Land. Specifically, the DPH Platform states that "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our freshwater resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaption measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 406-425, 432-439 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2676 codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal Fifteen pertaining to Life on Land, 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](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:46:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Nature Conservancy supports including all seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and indicators into State law. We understand that there may be some questions related to the most effective placement of the SDGs within chapters of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. We defer to consultation between the Legislature and the Executive Administration as to placement in the HRS.

The Nature Conservancy's local, national and global conservation goals and strategies for protecting lands and waters, water quality, sustainable fisheries, and climate change mitigation and adaptation directly reflect established, credible commitments from major international agreements, particularly the U.N. SDGs. The SDG commitments empower our conservation work in Hawai'i and beyond to contribute to global efforts that improve the health and function of nature and human well-being.

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:19:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Cooper	Hawaii Institute for Human Rights	Support	Yes

Comments:

We support the immediate adoption and subsequent actions to achieve SB2676 to ensure our state policies and practices align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the ALOHA+ Challenge.

The UN SDG #15 life on land is quite precious in the Pacific where our land must sustain all our spiritual and social practices. SB2676 will guarantee we protect, restore and support sustainable use of our terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage our forests and halt biodiversity loss as well as end land degradation.

Hawai'i will benefit by promote the implementation of sustainable management in line with international agreements under conventions on international human rights law and agreements relating to climate such as the Paris Agreement.

One specific feature is important in Hawai'i to conserve mountain ecosystems including their biodiversity. SDG #15 also focuses on, an area we haven't done well in the past, protection and prevention of extinction of threatened indigenous species. Another important initiative under the Global Goal is introducing measures and movement to reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land.

We believe in Earth Rights. We must protect our Aina in Hawai'i. Regarding our land, profit had dominated the policy making practices. We must restore the land so the people can live in harmony with our natural environment. Outside economic and colonial forces dictated the direction of laws and law in Hawai'i. On the 125th commemoration of the overthrow, we must recognize the rights of Kanaka Maoli in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Global Goal #15 is an important step for social justice in Hawaii.

Maluhia Me Ka Pono

**SB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:14:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

I am Nathan Yuen, Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter. I strongly support SB 2676 which codifies sustainable development goals. The Hawaiian Islands are tiny islands in the vast Pacific Ocean and the land we live on is finite. We must work to live in harmony with nature and not overexploit our resources if we are to survive into the future. I strongly support SB2676.



**From:** [Jeff McConnel](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:24:52 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

HACD was created by farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. They saw the importance in protecting the resource provides nutrients for crops and livestock.

While the conservation districts are most often associated with preparation and approval of conservation plans, the scope of their activities are much broader. As part of the National Association of Conservation Districts, we have access to material that can help the state agencies meet regulatory requirements. For example, those Counties involved in MS4 or Municipal Storm water requirements by EPA, have education requirements. Each year, there is a focus area across the country. In 2017 the topic was "Where does your Water shed?", which educated children about where water comes from and the need to be cognizant about practices such as oil discharges from your cars that may end up in the storm drain or dumping hazardous wastes where it can end up in streams. These are programs that can be implemented by Districts as part of their outreach. By funding the Districts, you contribute to their capacity to carry out these tasks.

Mahalo!



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January 31, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2561**  
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports SB 2676**, which provides funding for staffing and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

HFB appreciates the support provided by the legislature to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. This program is an excellent example of successful public-private partnerships that brings benefit not just to farmers and ranchers, but to everyone in the State of Hawaii. We support the position of HACD.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts was founded by farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. It was natural for them to protect the resources that provided nutrients for the growth of their crops and raising livestock.

Over the years, the Districts have also originated major water projects across the State bringing in Federal dollars to be matched by State resources. Today, we have two projects remaining and HACD continues to work with our Congressional Delegation to complete the Upcountry Dual line and the Lahaina Flood Control Projects. Drought mitigation is a major concern for farmers and ranchers. We are constantly looking for ways in which we can partner with USDA NRCS to implement programs in Hawaii.

While the conservation districts are most often associated with preparation and approval of conservation plans, the scope of their activities are much broader. As part of the National Association of Conservation Districts, we have access to material that can help the state agencies meet regulatory requirements. For example, those Counties involved in MS4 or Municipal Storm water requirements by EPA, have education requirements.

Each year, there is a focus area across the country. In 2017 topic was “Where does your Water shed?”. The purpose of this outreach program was to educate children about where water comes from and the need to be cognizant about practices, such as oil discharges from your cars that may end up in the storm drain or dumping hazardous wastes where it can end up in streams. Programs like these are adopted by each district as part of their outreach. By funding the Districts, you contribute to their capacity to carry out these tasks.

Another example is Soil Judging. Each year, students across the state enter a contest to test their abilities to correctly identify, evaluate, classify, and describe soil profiles and their applicability for various uses including housing. Did you know that Hawaii students have consistently placed in National competitions that take place in Oklahoma each year? Through these experiences, students have developed an interest in pursuing careers in agriculture.

HFB strongly supports the position as stated by HACD. We agree that placing this funding as a line item in the DLNR budget is prudent. We respectfully request your strong support of funding the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts and placing them as a line item in the DLNR budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.