

February 20, 2018

SB 2678, SD17 Strengthening Implementation  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211



**LATE**

The Oahu Economic Development Board supports SB2678 to adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 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 on 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, and participating with other organizations in workforce development planning to ensure that Hawai'i residents have the skills necessary to compete in a global economy, aligns with the SDGs on Strengthening Implementation (#17). 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.

If you would like further input from me, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Pono Shim  
President and CEO  
Oahu Economic Development Board





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*Hawai'i Green Growth is a statewide public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's sustainability and climate goals, and serve as a model for integrated green growth*

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth**  
In Support of SB2678 SD1 Relating to Sustainable Development Goals  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
21 February 2018, 10:08am, Room 211

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB2678 SD1** to adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into state law. As a statewide partnership, we recognize the critical importance of public-private partnerships and cross-sector collaboration in implementing sustainable development outcomes, as highlighted through SDG17. Even further, HGG recommends adopting the entire global framework with all 17 SDGs, as reflected in **SB2661 SD1**. HGG acknowledges discussions underway to determine the appropriate placement in HRS, but supports the overarching vision to holistically address 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges that cut across environmental, social, and economic priorities.

We appreciate the Senate's leadership on the 2018 Majority Program on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the support for Hawai'i sustainability initiatives over the past several decades. Our partnership believes that the SDGs can help advance local efforts to address key challenges in Hawai'i across housing, climate change, energy, environmental protection, health, education and economic development by acknowledging that none of these can be addressed without consideration for the others. We cannot meet our climate goals without achieving sustainable development outcomes and vice versa. Senator Kenneth Brown's 1973 Mālama Hawai'i speech proposed that every action – economic, social and political - be guided by *mālama*. The 17 SDGs embody Hawai'i's *mālama* 'āina approach to resource management, and counsels the necessity of maintaining a balance between all aspects of our environment, society, and economy. In many ways Senator Brown foretold the eventual arrival of the SDG framework.

Hawai'i launched the *Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'ōia* one year prior to the formal adoption of the SDGs by over 190 countries. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is led by the State Legislature (Senate Concurrent Resolution 69), Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and private sector and civil society partners. Building on Hawai'i's history of systems thinking and many community initiatives, this commitment identifies statewide sustainability goals across energy, food, natural resources, waste, smart sustainable communities and climate, green education and workforce. Hawai'i's *Aloha+ Challenge* is recognized as a place-based model to support locally and culturally appropriate implementation of the SDGs. At the same time, the global SDG framework supports the implementation of local models like the *Aloha+ Challenge*, Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative, 100 Resilient Cities, Promise to Pae 'Āina, and other efforts, and can help attract new resources to drive implementation. It also builds on Hawai'i's recent adoption of the Paris Agreement (Act 32) and the inspiring Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle'a. Enacting SDGs into state law is significant for Hawai'i locally, nationally and internationally.

Above all, the partnership recognizes that Hawai'i's long-term security in the face of climate change and other challenges is now linked to the success of this global agenda. Because of the scale of the threat, this is no longer something Hawai'i can do alone. Indeed, for many in the international community, Hawai'i holds the answer to finding the balance based on the wisdom of our host culture and fundamental island values, as embodied in Senator Kenneth Brown's speech delivered 45 years ago. It is our kuleana, both a responsibility and privilege, to partner with communities across the globe to build a more sustainable future for Hawai'i and island earth.

Thank you for your visionary leadership and for the opportunity to submit testimony.