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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that not only is climate  
2 change real, but it is the overriding challenge of the twenty-  
3 first century and one of the priority issues of the State.  
4 Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's  
5 economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

6           The legislature recognized in Act 8, Special Session Laws  
7 of Hawaii 2005, that "many quality-of-life issues, including  
8 water quality, air quality, land use, energy, and ocean  
9 resources, are important to the people of Hawaii and should be  
10 the focus for planning Hawaii's future" and created the Hawaii  
11 2050 sustainability plan to "coordinate the actions needed to  
12 sustain a growing and vibrant economy, while maintaining a high  
13 quality of life for all residents and visitors."

14           The legislature recognized in Act 181, Session Laws of  
15 Hawaii 2011, that "[t]he creation of the Hawaii 2050  
16 sustainability plan comes as the State faces a growing number of  
17 pressing issues, including the steady deterioration of public



1 infrastructure, the lack of affordable housing, a continued  
2 reliance on a service-based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii  
3 in a volatile global energy market, possible interruptions in  
4 travel and to critical food supplies, threats to fragile island  
5 ecosystems, ever-increasing numbers of residents, and an  
6 increasing number of visitors over the long-term." These issues  
7 all raise questions about the long-term limits of growth in the  
8 State and highlight the need to begin planning and coordinating  
9 state agencies to act to assure Hawaii's sustainable future.

10       The legislature further finds that the recent novel  
11 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and state of emergency  
12 has created unprecedented demands in Hawaii's local communities.  
13 The immediate impacts of the pandemic resulted in a sharp drop  
14 in Hawaii's employment and economic activity. Other sudden  
15 economic factors that were caused by reducing COVID-19  
16 transmission throughout the State of Hawaii include:  
17 significant job loss, cost of living challenges, increased  
18 affordable housing demands, shocks to the supply chain, locally  
19 produced food insecurity, scarcity of locally produced goods,  
20 increased technological demand, strains on technological  
21 infrastructure, workforce constraints, and increased demands on



1 healthcare and social services. These socioeconomic shocks and  
2 Hawaii's economic stresses have inspired discussions for long-  
3 term and comprehensive planning for a sustainable and resilient  
4 economic recovery for the State of Hawaii.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Establish a statewide sustainability branch within the  
7 office of planning to ensure stronger, long-term  
8 planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's  
9 sustainability goals; and
- 10 (2) Update and reaffirm the role of the office of planning  
11 to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate  
12 change adaptation and sustainability.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 225M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
15 and to read as follows:

16 **"§225M- Statewide sustainability branch; established.**

17 The statewide sustainability branch is established within the  
18 office of planning. The state sustainability coordinator shall  
19 serve as the administrator of the branch. The branch shall have  
20 the following duties:



- 1        (1) Develop, organize, and promote policies and programs  
2        that assist in the meeting of Hawaii's numerous  
3        sustainability and climate policies and goals, and the  
4        priority guidelines and principles to promote  
5        sustainability set forth in section 226-108;  
6        (2) Identify, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding  
7        proposed legislation, regulatory changes, or policy  
8        modifications to the governor, the legislature,  
9        government agencies, private entities, and other  
10       bodies for the purpose of encouraging activities that  
11       best sustain, protect, and enhance the quality of the  
12       environment, economy, and community for the present  
13       and future benefit of the people of Hawaii; and  
14       (3) Develop and promote proposals that jointly and  
15       mutually enhance local economies, the environment, and  
16       community well-being for the present and future  
17       benefit of the people of Hawaii."

18       SECTION 3. Section 225M-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

20       "(b) The office of planning shall gather, analyze, and  
21 provide information to the governor to assist in the overall



1 analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies to  
2 provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of  
3 resources and effectuation of state activities and programs and  
4 effectively address current or emerging issues and  
5 opportunities. More specifically, the office shall engage in  
6 the following activities:

- 7 (1) State comprehensive planning and program coordination.  
8 Formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide  
9 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and  
10 coordinating their implementation through the  
11 statewide planning system established in part II of  
12 chapter 226;
- 13 (2) Strategic planning. Identifying and analyzing  
14 significant issues, problems, and opportunities  
15 confronting the State, and formulating strategies and  
16 alternative courses of action in response to  
17 identified problems and opportunities by:
- 18 (A) Providing in-depth policy research, analysis, and  
19 recommendations on existing or potential areas of  
20 critical state concern;



- 1 (B) Examining and evaluating the effectiveness of  
2 state programs in implementing state policies and  
3 priorities;
- 4 (C) Monitoring through surveys, environmental  
5 scanning, and other techniques--current social,  
6 economic, and physical conditions and trends; and
- 7 (D) Developing, in collaboration with affected public  
8 or private agencies and organizations,  
9 implementation plans and schedules and, where  
10 appropriate, assisting in the mobilization of  
11 resources to meet identified needs;
- 12 (3) Planning coordination and cooperation. Facilitating  
13 coordinated and cooperative planning and policy  
14 development and implementation activities among state  
15 agencies and between the state, county, and federal  
16 governments, by:
- 17 (A) Reviewing, assessing, and coordinating, as  
18 necessary, major plans, programs, projects, and  
19 regulatory activities existing or proposed by  
20 state and county agencies;



- 1 (B) Formulating mechanisms to simplify, streamline,  
2 or coordinate interagency development and  
3 regulatory processes; and
- 4 (C) Recognizing the presence of federal defense and  
5 security forces and agencies in the State as  
6 important state concerns;
- 7 (4) Statewide planning and geographic information system.  
8 Collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and  
9 disseminating various forms of data and information,  
10 including geospatial data and information, to further  
11 effective state planning, policy analysis and  
12 development, and delivery of government services by:
  - 13 (A) Collecting, assembling, organizing, evaluating,  
14 and classifying existing geospatial and non-  
15 geospatial data and performing necessary basic  
16 research, conversions, and integration to provide  
17 a common database for governmental planning and  
18 geospatial analyses by state agencies;
  - 19 (B) Planning, coordinating, and maintaining a  
20 comprehensive, shared statewide planning and  
21 geographic information system and associated



1 geospatial database. The office shall be the  
2 lead agency responsible for coordinating the  
3 maintenance of the multi-agency, statewide  
4 planning and geographic information system and  
5 coordinating, collecting, integrating, and  
6 disseminating geospatial data sets that are used  
7 to support a variety of state agency applications  
8 and other spatial data analyses to enhance  
9 decision-making. The office shall promote and  
10 encourage free and open data sharing among and  
11 between all government agencies. To ensure the  
12 maintenance of a comprehensive, accurate, up-to-  
13 date geospatial data resource that can be drawn  
14 upon for decision-making related to essential  
15 public policy issues such as land use planning,  
16 resource management, homeland security, and the  
17 overall health, safety, and well-being of  
18 Hawaii's citizens, and to avoid redundant data  
19 development efforts, state agencies shall provide  
20 to the shared system either their respective  
21 geospatial databases or, at a minimum, especially





1 in cases of secure or confidential data sets that  
2 cannot be shared or must be restricted, metadata  
3 describing existing geospatial data. In cases  
4 where agencies provide restricted data, the  
5 office of planning shall ensure the security of  
6 that data; and

7 (C) Maintaining a centralized depository of state and  
8 national planning references;

9 (5) Land use planning. Developing and presenting the  
10 position of the State in all boundary change petitions  
11 and proceedings before the land use commission,  
12 assisting state agencies in the development and  
13 submittal of petitions for land use district boundary  
14 amendments, and conducting periodic reviews of the  
15 classification and districting of all lands in the  
16 State, as specified in chapter 205;

17 (6) Coastal and ocean policy management[-], and sea level  
18 rise adaptation coordination. Carrying out the lead  
19 agency responsibilities for the Hawaii coastal zone  
20 management program, as specified in chapter 205A.

21 Also:



- 1 (A) Developing and maintaining an ocean and coastal
- 2 resources information, planning, and management
- 3 system;
- 4 (B) Further developing and coordinating
- 5 implementation of the ocean resources management
- 6 plan; and
- 7 (C) Formulating ocean policies with respect to the
- 8 exclusive economic zone, coral reefs, and
- 9 national marine sanctuaries;
- 10 (7) Regional planning and studies. Conducting plans and
- 11 studies to determine:
  - 12 (A) The capability of various regions within the
  - 13 State to support projected increases in both
  - 14 resident populations and visitors;
  - 15 (B) The potential physical, social, economic, and
  - 16 environmental impact on these regions resulting
  - 17 from increases in both resident populations and
  - 18 visitors;
  - 19 (C) The maximum annual visitor carrying capacity for
  - 20 the State by region, county, and island; and



1 (D) The appropriate guidance and management of  
2 selected regions and areas of statewide critical  
3 concern.

4 The studies in subparagraphs (A) to (C) shall be  
5 conducted at appropriate intervals, but not less than  
6 once every five years;

7 (8) Regional, national, and international planning.  
8 Participating in and ensuring that state plans,  
9 policies, and objectives are consistent, to the extent  
10 practicable, with regional, national, and  
11 international planning efforts;

12 (9) Climate adaptation and sustainability planning[+] and  
13 coordination. Conducting plans and studies and  
14 preparing reports as follows:

15 (A) Develop, monitor, and evaluate strategic climate  
16 adaptation plans and actionable policy  
17 recommendations for the State and counties  
18 addressing expected statewide climate change  
19 impacts identified under [~~Act 286, Session Laws~~  
20 ~~of Hawaii 2012, through the year 2050;~~] chapter  
21 225P and sections 226-108 and 226-109; and



1 (B) Provide planning and policy guidance and  
2 assistance to state and county agencies regarding  
3 climate change[+] and sustainability; and  
4 ~~[(C) Publish its findings, recommendations, and  
5 progress reports on actions taken no later than  
6 December 31, 2017, and its annual report to the  
7 governor and the legislature thereafter; and]~~

8 (10) Smart growth and transit-oriented development. Acting  
9 as the lead agency to coordinate and advance smart  
10 growth and transit-oriented development planning  
11 within the State as follows:

12 (A) Identify transit-oriented development  
13 opportunities shared between state and county  
14 agencies, including relevant initiatives such as  
15 the department of health's healthy Hawaii  
16 initiative and the Hawaii clean energy  
17 initiative;

18 (B) Refine the definition of "transit-oriented  
19 development" in the context of Hawaii, while  
20 recognizing the potential for smart growth  
21 development patterns in all locations;



- 1 (C) Clarify state goals for transit-oriented  
2 development and smart growth that support the  
3 principles of the Hawaii State Planning Act by  
4 preserving non-urbanized land, improving worker  
5 access to jobs, and reducing fuel consumption;
- 6 (D) Target transit-oriented development areas for  
7 significant increase in affordable housing and  
8 rental units;
- 9 (E) Conduct outreach to state agencies to help  
10 educate state employees about the ways they can  
11 support and benefit from transit-oriented  
12 development and the State's smart growth goals;
- 13 (F) Publicize coordinated state efforts that support  
14 smart growth, walkable neighborhoods, and  
15 transit-oriented development;
- 16 (G) Review state land use decision-making processes  
17 to identify ways to make transit-oriented  
18 development a higher priority and facilitate  
19 better and more proactive leadership in creating  
20 walkable communities and employment districts,



1           even if transit will only be provided at a later  
2           date; and

3           (H) Approve all state agencies' development plans for  
4           parcels along the rail transit corridor. For the  
5           purposes of this subparagraph, "development  
6           plans" means conceptual land use plans that  
7           identify the location and planned uses within a  
8           defined area."

9           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10          and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11          SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Office of Planning; Statewide Planning; COVID-19 Economic Resilience; Climate Change; Sustainability; Statewide Sustainability Branch

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide sustainability branch within the Office of Planning. Updates and reaffirms the role of the office to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

