
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

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 the
5 State's 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 task force and the Hawaii 2050
12 sustainability plan to "coordinate the actions needed to sustain
13 a growing and vibrant economy, while maintaining a high quality
14 of life for all residents and visitors."

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



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

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a stronger policy
12 framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts, by incorporating
13 sustainability coordination and planning into the duties and
14 responsibilities of the office of planning by establishing a
15 statewide sustainability division within the office of planning
16 to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation
17 of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies. This statewide
18 sustainability division will serve as an independent, permanent,
19 multi-sectoral, and interdepartmental coordinating entity for
20 Hawaii's government agencies to work on cross-agency resiliency,



1 sustainability, and climate action planning issues and
2 strategies for Hawaii's future.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
5 as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 SUSTAINABILITY

8 § -1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to promote
9 and organize the State's sustainability goals, policies, and
10 guidelines through a statewide sustainability division to
11 protect the State's economy, environment, and way of life.

12 § -2 Definition. As used in this chapter:

13 "Sustainability" means using, developing, and protecting
14 resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs
15 and adapt and become resilient to Hawaii's changing climate, and
16 provides that future generations can also meet future needs,
17 from the joint perspective of environmental, economic, and
18 socially equitable objectives.

19 § -3 Findings and goals regarding sustainability. In
20 addition to the priority guidelines and principles promoting
21 sustainability set forth in section 226-108, the following



1 criteria shall be the goals for the State regarding
2 sustainability:

3 (1) The statewide sustainability division of the office of
4 planning shall assist state agencies to achieve the
5 following objectives:

6 (A) Encourage state purchases be made in a manner
7 that serves the broad, long-term financial
8 interests of the State, including ensuring that
9 environmental, economic, and societal
10 improvements are made to enhance environmental,
11 economic, and societal well-being;

12 (B) Promote investments in facilities, equipment, and
13 durable goods to reflect the highest feasible
14 efficiency and lowest life-cycle costs;

15 (C) Promote investments and expenditures to improve
16 in the efficient use of energy, water, food
17 security, and other resources;

18 (D) Encourage state operations in diverse locations,
19 including rural and economically distressed
20 communities;



- 1 (E) Encourage state operations and purchases to help
2 maintain vital and active urban communities,
3 including downtown areas;
- 4 (F) Promote state purchases to support opportunities
5 for economically distressed communities and
6 historically underemployed individuals;
- 7 (G) Support state operations to reflect partnerships
8 with communities and businesses;
- 9 (H) Advocate for state operations to help reduce
10 adverse effects on native habitats and species
11 and help restore ecological processes;
- 12 (I) Improve state operations using methods that
13 significantly increase the efficient use of
14 energy, water, food security, and other
15 resources;
- 16 (J) Encourage state operations and purchases to
17 reflect the efficient use and reuse of resources
18 and reduction of contaminants released into the
19 environment; and
- 20 (K) Coordinate and promote the United Nations
21 sustainable development goals;



- 1 (2) The statewide sustainability division of the office of
2 planning shall assist state agencies to support
3 sustainable communities, and assist and encourage
4 local communities to achieve the following objectives:
- 5 (A) Resilient local economies that provide diverse
6 economic opportunities for all residents;
- 7 (B) Workers supported by lifelong education that will
8 ensure a globally competitive workforce;
- 9 (C) An independent and productive citizenry;
- 10 (D) Youth supported by strong families and
11 communities;
- 12 (E) Urban communities, including downtown areas, that
13 are active and vital;
- 14 (F) Development that wisely and efficiently uses
15 infrastructure, investments, and natural
16 resources;
- 17 (G) Affordable housing available for residents in
18 community centers;
- 19 (H) Healthy urban and rural watersheds, including
20 habitats for fish and wildlife;
- 21 (I) Clean and sufficient water for all uses; and



1 (J) Efficient use and reuse of resources and
2 minimization of harmful emissions into the
3 environment; and

4 (3) The statewide sustainability division of the office of
5 planning shall intensify efforts to increase the
6 economic stability of communities that are designated
7 as economically distressed.

8 § -4 Statewide sustainability division. (a) The
9 statewide sustainability division is established within the
10 office of planning. The sustainability division shall have the
11 following duties:

12 (1) Develop, organize, and promote policies and programs
13 that assist in the meeting of sustainability goals
14 established in this chapter, including Hawaii's
15 numerous sustainability and climate policies and
16 goals, and the priority guidelines and principles to
17 promote sustainability set forth in section 226-108;

18 (2) Identify, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding
19 proposed legislation, regulatory changes, or policy
20 modifications to the governor, the legislature,
21 government agencies, private entities, and other



1 bodies for the purpose of encouraging activities that
2 best sustain, protect, and enhance the quality of the
3 environment, economy, and community for the present
4 and future benefit of the people of Hawaii; and

5 (3) Develop and promote proposals that jointly and
6 mutually enhance local economies, the environment, and
7 community health for the present and future benefit of
8 the people of Hawaii."

9 SECTION 3. Section 225M-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "**§225M-1 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to
12 establish an office of planning to assist the governor and the
13 director of business, economic development, and tourism in
14 maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the
15 State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range,
16 and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and
17 social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of
18 Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical
19 manner, including the conservation of those natural,
20 environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited



1 and irreplaceable resources [~~which~~] that are required for future
2 generations.

3 The establishment of an office of planning in the
4 department of business, economic development, and tourism, for
5 administrative purposes, is intended to:

- 6 (1) Fix responsibility and accountability to successfully
7 carry out statewide planning programs, policies, and
8 priorities;
- 9 (2) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the
10 operations of the executive branch;
- 11 (3) Ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to
12 enhance the quality of life of the people of
13 Hawaii[-]; and
- 14 (4) Coordinate the implementation of sustainability
15 principles and policies that increase economic
16 development while developing and protecting resources
17 in a manner that enables individuals to meet their
18 current needs and ensure that future generations can
19 also meet their needs, from the joint perspective of
20 environmental, economic, and community objectives,



1 through collaboration and cooperation between the
2 public and private sectors."

3 SECTION 4. Section 226-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending the definition of "sustainability" to read
5 as follows:

6 "Sustainability" [~~means achieving the following:~~
7 ~~(1) Respect of the culture, character, beauty, and history~~
8 ~~of the State's island communities;~~
9 ~~(2) Striking a balance between economic, social,~~
10 ~~community, and environmental priorities; and~~
11 ~~(3) Meeting the needs of the present without compromising~~
12 ~~the ability of future generations to meet their own~~
13 ~~needs.] shall have the same meaning as in section
14 -2."~~

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2020-2021 for the establishment of and implementation of the
20 statewide sustainability division.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
2 planning for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2020-2021 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent
8 (1.00 FTE) secretary III position, two full-time equivalent
9 (2.00 FTE) planner IV positions, and two full-time equivalent
10 (2.00 FTE) planner V positions to support the statewide
11 sustainability division.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
13 planning for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 908
S.D. 2

Report Title:

Statewide Sustainability Division; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a statewide sustainability division within the Office of Planning to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

