



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
in consideration of  
**HB 2213**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE PLANNING.**

Chair Cullen, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the House Committee on Legislative Management.

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** this measure offers the following **comments** on HB 2213. The purpose of HB 2213 is to require the Office of Planning to review the Hawai‘i State Planning Act and report to the Legislature its recommendations for updating the Hawai‘i State Planning Act to appropriately address the needs of the State.

The Hawai‘i State Planning Act—Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, was enacted in 1978 by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. All state agencies, including the Office of Planning, are guided by the Hawai‘i State Planning Act, which is a broad policy document that sets the table for all activities, programs, and decisions made by local and state agencies. The last update of the Hawai‘i State Plan began in 1983 and was completed in 1985. The development of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act also led the way for the completion of 13 functional plans: agriculture, conservation lands, education, employment, energy, health, higher education, historic preservation, housing, human services, recreation, tourism, and transportation. Each functional plan identified priority issues in the functional area and include objectives, policies, and implementing actions. The functional plans were adopted between 1989-1991, of these functional plans, the Housing Functional Plan was recently updated in 2017.

The Office of Planning recently published in March 2018 the Phase 1 comprehensive review of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act. The update, titled, *Hawaii State Plan Update: Phase 1 Final Report*, inventoried and reviewed all state departments plans, strategic plans, functional plans, and capital improvement plans; identifying common themes and policy directions; developing findings as to the overall status of the plans and preparing findings and recommendations for next steps in the update of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act. The publication may also be found at the Office of Planning’s website:  
[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/Hawaii\\_State\\_Plan\\_Update\\_Ph\\_1\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/Hawaii_State_Plan_Update_Ph_1_Final_Report.pdf).

The Office of Planning understands that significant changes in Hawai‘i’s economic, physical, and social conditions, technology, and the global marketplace, occurred since 1978 and 1985, respectively, as well as recognizes the constraints and opportunities the State of Hawai‘i faces as we plan for Hawai‘i’s future. The Office of Planning recognizes that Part 1: the overall theme, goals, objectives, and policies of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act, (§§226-1 to -28) should be updated to reflect the changes of Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry and its future economic development.

The Office of Planning notes that the office has a limited capacity with regard to its staffing and would like to request one additional planner V (1.0 FTE) to staff the Special Plans Branch to support the comprehensive update requested by this bill. The Office of Planning also recommends that this update be conducted in phases as recommended in *Hawaii State Plan Update: Phase 1 Final Report*. The Office of Planning proposes an appropriation of \$400,000 to conduct this update to review, analyze, and recommend updates to the Hawai‘i State Planning Act.

The Office of Planning supports HB 2213 and finds this measure complimentary to the Office of Planning’s efforts to review and update the Hawai‘i State Planning Act. The Office of Planning would appreciate the following amendment:

- (5) Report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of ~~2021~~ 2022.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2213.