



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
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before the

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

LATE

in consideration of
HB 2487
RELATING TO A HAWAII GREEN NEW DEAL

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and Members of the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of Planning **supports the intent** of this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB 2487 tasks the State's Sustainability Coordinator and the Office of Planning to conduct a study on implementing a Green New Deal for Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning has been actively working on sustainable development and climate adaptation planning to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning notes that many sustainability initiatives and goals are presently codified within Hawai'i's Revised Statutes, which have similar intent to House Resolution 109 of the 116th Congress, Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal, including but not limited to: §103D-412: Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Requirements; §174C-31(g)(6): Water Reclamation in State & County Facilities; §196-9: the Energy Efficiencies and Environmental Standards for State Facilities, Motor Vehicles, and Transportation Fuel; §225P-5: the Zero Emissions Clean Economy Target; §269-96: the Energy Efficient Portfolio Standard; §302A-1510: the Department of Education's Net-Zero Energy Goal; and §304A-119: the University of Hawaii's Net-Zero Energy Goal.

The Office of Planning recognizes that similar emission reduction and greenhouse gas sequestration efforts are being also organized by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Hawai'i's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. The State of Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative also encourages the achievement of various sustainability goals, which are not codified in Hawai'i's Revised

Statutes. In accordance with Executive Order 18-06, the Office of Planning supports the implementation, to the extent possible, of sustainable development practices and action to assist the State in achieving the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by the year 2030, and plans to utilize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for sustainability coordination and planning. Finally, the Office of Planning thanks the Hawai'i State Legislature for passing Act 146, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2019, now codified within the Hawai'i State Planning Act as §226-65 to revise and update Hawai'i's 2050 Sustainability Plan to "serve as the State's climate and sustainability action plan."

The Office of Planning recognizes the many concerted efforts are being made by the State of Hawai'i in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation planning for Hawai'i's sustainable future and appreciates this opportunity to assist the Hawai'i State Legislature with policy research and analysis on cost-effective climate change solutions for the State of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB 2487, RELATING TO A HAWAII GREEN NEW DEAL

FEBRUARY 6, 2020 · HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND HOUSE WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE · CHAIRS SEN. NICOLE E. LOWEN AND REP. RYAN I. YAMANE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports HB 2487, relating to a green new deal, which requires the sustainability coordinator of the office of planning to complete a study on implementing a green new deal for the state; and requires the study to identify federal and international polices, review Hawai'i's environmental, economic, and cultural response to the green new deal, and determine cost-effective opportunities for Hawai'i to implement the green new deal.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding.

Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, **climate change will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking.** While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, our state should take steps to protect Hawai'i's coastal areas, including by brainstorming what a green new deal could look like for Hawai'i. A resolution calling for a green new deal for the United States was introduced by Sen. Edward Markey and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on February 7, 2019, which includes the following ten objectives:

1. "Guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States."
2. "Providing all people of the United States with – (i) high-quality health care; (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing; (iii) economic security; and (iv) access to clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and nature."
3. "Providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of the United States."
4. "Meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources."
5. "Repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the United States, including ... by eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as much as technologically feasible."

6. "Building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and 'smart' power grids, and working to ensure affordable access to electricity."
7. "Upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximal energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification."
8. "Overhauling transportation systems in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in – (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transportation; and (iii) high-speed rail."
9. "Spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing in the United States and removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as much as is technologically feasible."
10. "Working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible."

This federal framework is adaptable for our state, too. We *can* uplift workers and our planet at the same time. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home and deliver economic justice for generations to come.

HB-2487

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:58:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please SUPPORT HB2487, Hawai'i needs a Green New Deal! I strongly support any concerted effort to research and put together a thoughtful package of legislation that would help Hawai'i's families find good jobs helping protect our 'Ā• ina and communities from Climate Chaos, while ensuring a greater emphasis on social justice and understanding that would bring our communities closer. As we see the myriad impacts of this unsustainable "endless growth and extraction" economy, we are learning the root cause of planetary breakdown is greed and disregard for others, including our plant and animal friends as well, why wouldn't we want to get to work saving the planet and becoming better people? The Green New Deal is very possibly coming down the line with results of federal election this year, including funding and support programs, Hawaii needs to be ready from the get go to take advantage of this surge of energy, there is no time to delay finding well thought thru solutions that will for Hawaii's unique demographics and ecosystems. Let's get to work folks, saving our planet and each other. Aloha.

Phaethon Keeney

Honoka'a Hawai'i

HB-2487

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:48:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: