

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 24, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2635, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN**

House Bill 2635, House Draft 1 proposes to establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the state plan to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by increasing outdoor public green spaces, connecting outdoor public green spaces with existing trails, and increasing urban tree canopy as objectives and policies for the environment. The bill also proposed to require the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure priority guidelines established by this measure. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program is to balance the urban and natural environment by encouraging, empowering and equipping the people of Hawai'i to mālama the trees in our 'āina. The Kaulunani program builds capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage and protect all manner of green infrastructure including street-trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales and related natural areas where we live, work, and play. The urban tree canopy is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure. This measure would help reverse that trend. The Department encourages collaboration between the Department and the Office of Planning on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



**Healthy Climate
Communities**

Testimony in support of HB2635

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Monday February 24, 2020, 1pm

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee members

I am writing in strong support of HB2635 which amends the State plan to include green infrastructure and increase the urban tree canopy.

As the climate warms and our urban areas are increasingly covered with impermeable surfaces we need to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities and to absorb and retain rainwater. We also need to promote tree planting if we are to achieve our goal to become carbon neutral by 2045.

This Bill will set the stage for all public projects in Hawaii to plan for green infrastructure from the start, thus maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lisa Marten

Executive Director
HealthyClimateCommunities.org
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 5:58:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winston Welch	The Outdoor Circle	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chair Wildberger and Todd, and Committee members,

I am writing to express that The Outdoor Circle is in strong support of HB2635 to amends the State plan to include green infrastructure and increase the urban tree canopy.

As our climate warms and urban areas are increasingly covered with impermeable surfaces, we must vigilantly be involved in tree planting, especially large canopy trees, for the many benefits they bring, including cooling surrounding areas, water run off capture and carbon sequestration.

It takes many years for trees to get to a size where ecosystem benefits really start to kick in so planting now and increasing planting and to green space is imperative to start now.

There are many positive aspects to this bill and we encourage your full support.

Mahalo,

Winston Welch, Executive Director

The Outdoor Circle

1324 South King Street #306, Honolulu, HI 96814

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 6:23:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Climate Protector	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 24, 2020

TIME: 1:00 PM.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

PLACE:

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee on Finance.

The Climate Protectors Coalition supports HB 2635HD1!

We are a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

The proposed green infrastructure planning is a good idea and will likely help the State reduce its carbon footprint. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!



Written Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, February 24, 2020

Conf. Room 308 (1:00 pm)

RE: HB2635 HD 1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chairs Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members of the Committee on Finance:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a non-profit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We support the above-referenced bill, which establishes guidelines on sustainability and green infrastructure within the State Plan. It also has an important accountability aspect by requiring the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure priority guidelines established by this measure. That's important because a plan is only a plan, execution is where the "rubber meets the road". In just one example, during a hearing on a bill under consideration by the 29th Legislature in 2019, the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation submitted testimony against tree planting along the H-1 Freeway corridor because it wasn't part of their mandate. We need to change that narrow thinking and the status quo. By mandating that planning for every state facility, as well as infrastructure and transit projects, must at least consider green infrastructure and other design concepts, the Legislature is highlighting the issue/concern. We are running out of time. We hope this bill will cause positive change.

In particular, we want to stress that trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature. Trees also recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs. Trees trap pollutants and store CO₂. Trees calm traffic. Sadly though, Honolulu has been losing urban tree canopy over the past years.

We ask that this bill be passed on to the full House and crossover to the Senate. Thank you for your foresight to care about the future we are leaving behind for our keiki.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell
President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353

P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828



183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020, 1:00pm

In strong support of HB2635 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee members:

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports **HB2635**.

This bill would amend the State Plan to include green infrastructure in state facilities and increase the urban tree canopy. Urban trees improve air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon, and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life are a win:win for everyone and need to be supported.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:52:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brijit Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Monday February 24, 2020, 1pm

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of HB2635 which amends the State plan to include green infrastructure and increase the urban tree canopy.

As the climate warms and our urban areas are increasingly covered with impermeable surfaces we need to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities and to absorb and retain rainwater. We also need to promote tree planting if we are to achieve our goal to become carbon neutral by 2045.

This Bill will set the stage for all public projects in Hawaii to plan for green infrastructure from the start, thus maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

Mahalo,

Dr. Brit Reis

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 5:21:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please include the trees--our planets lungs--in the State plan.

Aloha!

Tom DiGrazia & Family

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 10:09:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 8:43:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

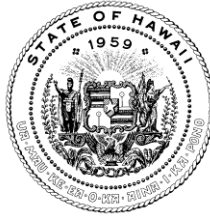
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Erickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To promote tree planting among our youth through efforts by adults we are perpetuating not only our heritage but that culture that thrives on living in a more healthy natural world for ourselves and our children....easily done and a common sense approach.

Randy Erickson

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 24, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2635, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN**

House Bill 2635, House Draft 1 proposes to: 1) establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the State Plan to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by increasing outdoor public green spaces, connecting outdoor public green spaces with existing trails, and increasing urban tree canopy as objectives and policies for the environment; 2) add a definition of “green infrastructure”; and 3) require the Office of Planning, in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure priority guidelines established by this measure. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The mission of the Department’s Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program is to balance the urban and natural environment by encouraging, empowering and equipping the people of Hawai‘i to mālama the trees in our ‘āina. The Kaulunani program builds capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage and protect all manner of green infrastructure including street-trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales and related natural areas where we live, work, and play. The urban tree canopy is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure. This measure would help reverse that trend. The Department encourages collaboration between the Department and the Office of Planning on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

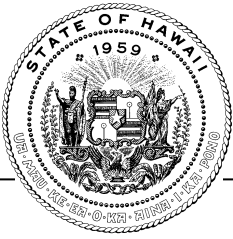
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, February 24, 2020
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
in consideration of
HB 2635, HD 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

LATE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committees on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** HB 2635, HD 1, with the following comments.

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 supports the integration of green infrastructure and incorporating vegetation, trees, and sustainable green design in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and public infrastructure projects to increase overall green space throughout Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning **thanks** the Legislature for making amendments suggested by OP before the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

LATE

HB-2635-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:31:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Madin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2635

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Thursday February 6, 2020, 9:15am

Dear Chair Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chair Wildberger and Todd, and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of HB2635 which amends the State plan to include green infrastructure and increase the urban tree canopy.

As the climate warms and our urban areas are increasingly covered with impermeable surfaces we need to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities and to absorb and retain rainwater. We also need to promote tree planting if we are to achieve our goal to become carbon neutral by 2045.

This Bill will set the stage for all public projects in Hawaii to plan for green infrastructure from the start, thus maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

Mahalo,

Dr. Elizabeth Madin