



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. Lisa Marten

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



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

To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
and
The House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 9:15am

In strong support of HB2635

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and Committee members of EEP and WLH:

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

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:28:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

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,

Brit Reis, MD

LATE



Written Testimony before the

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

Thursday, February 6, 2020
Conf. Room 325 (9:15 am)

RE: HB2635 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, Members of the Joint Committee:

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 debate on a bill in 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 Committee on Finance and 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

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:12:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Simmons	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,

Karen Simmons

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:31:03 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs 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.

Please pass HB2635. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:31:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara M Rigney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Our state needs more urban trees, for the health of our people and the land.

Mahalo,

Tamara Rigney

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:01:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

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.

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.

Let's get the DPP involved too to stop this crazy building of monster houses!

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:04:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Trees are our first and esiest line of defense against adverse climate change.

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:10:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stephanie frazier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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,

Stephanie Frazier

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:57:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ChristopherMcCullough	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:50:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of our 5,000 members and supporters of Our Revolution Hawaii, we strongly support HB2635. One of the important ways we will be able to mitigate the growing Climate Crisis is to plant more trees. As trees grow, they help stop Climate Change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Please pass this important legislation.

Malama Pono, Dave Mulinix, Organizer, Our Revolution Hawaii

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:22:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Marten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2635

LATE

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. WE cannot wait until it is too late. We are an isolated island and have to care for ourselves.

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,

Ann Marten

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:39:00 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:

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:42:48 PM

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

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:37:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2635

LATE

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

Assistant Professor

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:56:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Formby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a member of the Panel of Advisors for Trees for Honolulu's Future, I strongly support HB2635 which amends the State plan to include green infrastructure and increase the urban tree canopy.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LATE

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2635
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

House Bill 2635 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 proposes 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.

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:56:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorna Woo	IUPAT, District Council 50	Support	No

Comments:

LATE



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FOUNDERS

David Gottfried
Michael Italiano
S. Richard Fedrizzi

LATE

February 6, 2020

Committee on Energy and Environmental
Protection

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 425
Honolulu, HI 96813

Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian
Affairs

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2635, Relating to the State Plan

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

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), our nearly 9,000 member companies nationwide, and our strong community in Hawaii, we appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support for House Bill 2635 (HB2635), a bill that would establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the state plan, which is before the committees today.

USGBC and LEED in Hawaii

USGBC is a nonprofit organization committed to transforming the way all buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated to support a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life for all.

Our flagship green building rating system, LEED, continues to grow in the Hawaii market, with over 200 certified projects amounting to more than 22 million square feet in total.¹ Our education and professional credential programs support green building in Hawaii as well, with almost 1,300 Hawaiians holding a LEED Accredited Professional (AP) or a LEED Green Associate credential.

USGBC was recently proud to report that Hawaii is once again recognized as a “Top State for LEED,” coming in fifth of all 50 states. This represents a rise in the 2018 Top 10 list, when the state ranked seventh. In 2019, Hawaii certified 4.08 million square feet, averaging 3.00 GSF per capita.²

USGBC Supports HB 2635

USGBC offers our strong support of HB 2635, legislation that is before the committees today. HB 2635 would establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the Hawaii state plan with the goal to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. The bill also would require the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

¹ [State Market Briefs](#), U.S. Green Building Council.

² [Top Ten States for LEED](#) (2019), U.S. Green Building Council



Commission to submit a report to the Legislature, making recommendations for implementing green infrastructure priority guidelines. If passed, this proposal will support Hawaii in its continued progress in enhancing resilience of its built environment and mitigating the effects of climate change.

LEED and Climate Resilience

USGBC is committed to building and design practices that are sustainable, efficient, and economically sound. Resilience is a clear extension of this work, and LEED works to encourage and support resilience outcomes in the built environment. For projects to earn LEED certification, they must meet high standards for sustainability and efficiency, thus positioning them to maximize their overall resilience as well. In order to moderate the intensifying effects of climate change on our communities and infrastructure, LEED is a critical tool that has been proven effective with industry stakeholders, including building owners and occupants.

USGBC works to ensure project teams are supported in their resilience efforts, including providing guidance to facilitate identification of opportunities to improve the durability and sustainability of projects pursuing LEED.³ Also, LEED helps guide project teams in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprints associated with their building projects. According to a recent study, buildings certified under LEED Operations and Maintenance (LEED O+M) were associated with lower levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Specifically, LEED buildings were associated with 50 percent fewer GHGs from water use, 48 percent fewer GHGs from solid waste input, and five percent fewer GHGs from transportation.⁴ LEED gives project teams the tools they need to effectively mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as save resources, and protect the well-being of occupants and surrounding communities.

Like LEED, SITES is designed to help communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, though specifically developed to support sustainable land development. With input from landscape architects, designers, planners, ecologists, and engineers, resilience is one of the key goals of the SITES system. Credits include focus on green infrastructure, sustainable construction and maintenance, low carbon output, and more. SITES is more than just a system for individual landscape projects – SITES guides projects to enhance their resilience, thus ensuring readiness for a rapidly changing climate.⁵

USGBC commends the state of Hawaii for its leadership on this critical issue, and we thank the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs for bringing this bill up for consideration today.

³ ["Profiles of Resilience: LEED in Practice,"](#) USGBC Resources.

⁴ ["Quantifying the Comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Co-Benefits of Green Buildings,"](#) Center for the Built Environment, University of California-Berkeley (2014).

⁵ ["Greenspace for Good: Using the SITES System to Advance Resilience,"](#) USGBC Resources.



USGBC urges the members of the committees to support HB 2635, and move towards its swift passage.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Elizabeth Beardsley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth Beardsley. P.E.
Senior Policy Counsel
U.S. Green Building Council



USGBC
2101 L STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20037
202 828-7422
USGBC.ORG

FOUNDERS

David Gottfried
Michael Italiano
S. Richard Fedrizzi

LATE

February 6, 2020

Committee on Energy and Environmental
Protection

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 425
Honolulu, HI 96813

Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian
Affairs

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2635, Relating to the State Plan

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

On behalf of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), our nearly 9,000 member companies nationwide, and our strong community in Hawaii, we appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support for House Bill 2635 (HB2635), a bill that would establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the state plan, which is before the committees today.

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USGBC commends the state of Hawaii for its leadership on this critical issue, and we thank the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs for bringing this bill up for consideration today.

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Sincerely,

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Elizabeth Beardsley. P.E.
Senior Policy Counsel
U.S. Green Building Council

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LATE

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
Energy & Environmental Protection
and
Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

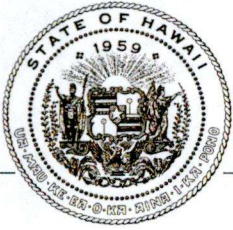
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2635
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

House Bill 2635 establishes 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 requires 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 DLNR and the Office of Planning on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

Thursday, February 6, 2020

9:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2635
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

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 HB 2635, with the following comments and suggested amendments.

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 suggests the following amendments to move certain proposals of HB 2635 from the Hawai'i State Planning Act's Part III- the Priority Guidelines, to Part I- the Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The Office of Planning suggests adding certain green infrastructure priority guidelines to existing "Population growth and land resources priority guidelines" in §226-104, Hawai'i Revised Statutes as a new subsection (c). The Office of Planning finds that the green infrastructure and sustainable design language in this bill compliments the work of the Office of Planning and the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, and the Office of Planning would like to request an amendment in Section 4 of HB 2635 to task the Office of Planning in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force to work on these initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure, the Office of Planning's requested amendments are attached for the committees' review.

SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and read as follows:

"§226-A. Objective and policies for facility systems--Green infrastructure. (a) Planning for state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects with regard to green infrastructure shall be directed toward the achievement shall incorporate the achievement of the following sustainability design objectives:

- (1) Minimize [ing] storm water runoff and replenish[ing] the water table through ground water recharge;
- (2) Reduce[ing] the urban heat-island effect;
- (3) Encourage the removal[ing] of pollutants from the air; and
- (4) Encourage the removal, sequestration, [ing] and storage[ing] of greenhouse gas emissions[carbon].

(b) Planning for state facility [ies] systems, infrastructure, and transit projects shall incorporate the achievement of the following quality of experience design objectives:

- (1) Creating a visual and sound barrier to enhance the quality of life in the surrounding community;
- (2) Incorporating as much live foliage, trees, green infrastructure, and open green space as possible;
- (3) Finishing exterior exposed appurtenances and concrete surfaces not covered in foliage or green infrastructure, with a standardized paint scheme to protect against weathering, blend appropriately with Hawaii's natural environment, enhance a Hawaii sense of place, and provide for a better quality of experience;
- ~~— (4) Finishing exposed appurtenances, such as street lights, trash cans, and other elements, in a standardized paint scheme to protect against weathering, blend appropriately with Hawaii's natural environment, enhance a Hawaii sense of place, and provide for a better quality of experience; and~~
- ~~— (5) Incorporating elements of art, interest, humor, or similar enhancements to improve quality of experience.~~

(c) For the purpose of this section:

"Green Infrastructure" means the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters.¹

SECTION 3. Section 226-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) To achieve the scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources objective, it shall be the policy of this State to:

- (1) Promote the preservation and restoration of significant natural and historic resources.

¹ Definition from U.S. EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>

- (2) Provide incentives to maintain and enhance historic, cultural, and scenic amenities.
- (3) Promote the preservation of views and vistas to enhance the visual and aesthetic enjoyment of mountains, ocean, scenic landscapes, and other natural features.
- (4) Protect those special areas, structures, and elements that are an integral and functional part of Hawaii's ethnic and cultural heritage.
- (5) Encourage the design of developments and activities that complement the natural beauty of the islands.
- (6) Promote the increase of outdoor public green spaces.
- (7) Connect outdoor public green spaces with existing trails.
- (8) Promote the increase of urban tree canopy."

SECTION 4. Section 226-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Priority guidelines to promote the use of green infrastructure in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects:

- (1) Design all new state facilities, infrastructure, and transit upgrades to include best practices for tree planting and other green infrastructure;
- (2) Make provisions for maintaining trees in accordance with standards set by the Accredited Standards Committee of the Tree Care Industry Association;
- (3) Select tree species matched to site conditions to maximize tree health;
- (4) Select tree and vegetation species for larger size at maturity where possible to maximize environmental benefits;
- (5) Select varied native tree and vegetation species for biodiversity to increase resilience; and
- (6) Promote traffic safety with placement of foliage and trees consistent with Federal Highway Administration guidance, outside of "clear zones".

SECTION 5. The Office of Planning in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force [Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission] shall submit a report to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021, that includes:

- (1) Recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives and policies set out by Section 226- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, as established by section 2 of this Act, and the priority guidelines set out by section 226- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, as established by section 4 of this Act; and
- (2) Any other findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation.

Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund

Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund

Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889
AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund

Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund

Re: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and the
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing on House Bill 2635 (Relating To The State Plan)

Date: February 6, 2018

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Location: Room 325

Chairs, Lowen and Yamane and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund, Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund, Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889 AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund, and Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund **in support** of House Bill 2635. The aforesaid organizations are labor management cooperation funds between the Painters Union, Tapers Union, Glaziers Union, and Carpet and Soft Tile Layers Union and their signatory contractors.

This measure will promote the employment of green strategies and technologies including, among other things, painting concrete and other infrastructure to blend in with Hawaii's natural environment.

We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute our knowledge and expertise toward the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's scenic beauty through the visual improvements envisioned by the bill. Aesthetic treatment of our streets and highways can only improve the quality of life in Honolulu, improve its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and benefit our local economy. We thus respectfully urge you to advance this measure through your respective committees.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice our **support** for this measure.

LATE

HB-2635

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:11:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rivera	Smart Trees Pacific	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the non-profit organization, Smart Trees Pacific, we would like to submit our support for HB 2635. In 2015, The Division of Forestry & Wildlife and its Kaulunani Program and Smart Trees Pacific (STP) contracted a study of Honolulu's urban tree canopy change using high-resolution satellite imagery and LiDAR. [The resulting report is now available to the public for review.](#)

What we found was alarming. Urban Oahu is losing a significant amount of our tree canopy; in fact, we lost nearly 5% of our total urban tree canopy over four years (approx. 910 acres). The majority of losses were in non-public zoning areas. Net Residential losses alone totaled 355 acres representing 39% of all the tree canopy loss; some land use parcels near Kalaeloa Airport saw unprecedented clear cutting resulting in 100% canopy loss. All land use areas saw decreases; even our conservation areas saw a 1% loss in tree canopy. Close to 98% of the losses were less than a quarter-acre each and spread widely across the landscape. These losses equate to at least 76,600 trees. New plantings did occur totaling about 230 acres, which is far short of what is needed to keep pace with the losses, especially considering the time required to grow a canopy.

This trend is dangerous for our community health, our ecological health, and our personal health. The bill is the first bill to properly address this problem with a plan to reverse this trend. The 2016 Honolulu Urban Tree Canopy Assessment reported that tree canopy covered 23% (2,892 acres) of the study area, and there is room for an additional 64% (7,924 acres) of the urban land area that could be modified to hold more tree canopy. These opportunities exist in areas currently covered by both vegetated and impervious surfaces. As vegetated areas are converted to impervious areas, planting becomes more challenging.

In order to stop excessive damages done to our public trees that reduce the lifespan of these trees, STP also supports the incorporation of industrial standard TCIA A300 into all State tree maintenance contracts. The standard stipulates the care of trees from the soil to the crown. We have seen this process implemented successfully in places such as the Tumon district in Guam. The standard is incorporated in the maintenance RFP and the work is certified by a certified arborist before payment is issued. This will extend the lifespan of our State public trees.

Policy to support growing and maintaining tree canopy is needed for all of Hawaii's urban trees. This bill addresses this. Please support HB2635.

Please contact us with any questions @ info@SmartTreesPacific.org