



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**SB 2856**  
**RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) **strongly supports** Administration Bill, SB 2856, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201-18 to allow funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments, in addition to cleanup loans. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This measure is needed to authorize and take advantage of expanded use of HBCRLF funds, which EPA provided under a closeout agreement for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, because of the demand for funds for cleanup grants and site assessments.

As the program administrator of the HBCRLF Program, OP has identified with its EPA and Department of Health partners, several potential projects seeking site assessment and/or cleanup grant funds for the restoration and reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties that are slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements. This measure would facilitate more productive use of HBCRLF funds to advance eligible public and non-profit projects of community benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, February 20, 2020

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**SB2856**

**RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Department supports Administration Bill, SB2856, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201-18 to allow the use of funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments, in addition to cleanup loans. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is administered by the Office of Planning (OP).

This measure is needed to authorize and take advantage of expanded use of HBCRLF funds, which EPA provided under a closeout agreement for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, because interest in grants for cleanup and site assessments is very high. The HBCRLF Program has already identified with its EPA and Department of Health partners, several potential projects seeking cleanup grant funds for restoration and reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties that are slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2856  
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DE LA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATOR GILBERT S. C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 2/20/2020

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure does not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this measure to expand the  
5 Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BFRLF) authority to enable sub-grants to  
6 eligible public, private and non-profit entities for the assessment and cleanup of contaminated  
7 properties and return them to productive reuse.

8 The Department has dedicated federally funded staff within the Hazard Evaluation and  
9 Emergency Response Office to actively support safe redevelopment of Brownfields sites. These  
10 sites are often underutilized due to contamination or perceived contamination that hinders  
11 redevelopment. The Department actively supports property owners and potential purchasers  
12 through outreach, Brownfield forums, and technical assistance needed to complete assessment  
13 and remediation to prepare sites for redevelopment. A key part of this effort are our partnerships  
14 with Office of Planning who manages the BFRLF and U.S. EPA who initially capitalized the  
15 fund and provides ongoing, annual competitive assessment and remediation grants.

16 Expanding the use of the BFRLF to conduct assessments and where necessary, cleanups of  
17 potentially contaminated property, will encourage redevelopment of commercial or industrial  
18 properties that are left idled, abandoned and underutilized because of contamination. Expanding

1 the use of the loan funds to sub-grants will benefit the local community by having more lands to  
2 be developed for affordable housing, public parks, and open areas. This will also promote infill  
3 redevelopment that will provide more land available for housing away from productive  
4 agricultural lands.

5 The Department serves as the Site Manager for the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan  
6 Fund Program with Office of Planning provides oversight and technical review in the  
7 assessment and cleanup of these contaminated properties. The Department believes that this  
8 legislation will benefit the state, counties, private owners, non-profit organizations in providing  
9 more available lands for redevelopment.

10 **Offered Amendments: None**

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-2856**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:24:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is very important to support the continued clean-up of Hawaii's brownfield sites.

**SB-2856**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:00:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: