



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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, February 4, 2021
8:30 AM
Via Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 900
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

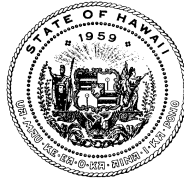
Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning **strongly supports** Administration Bill, HB 900, 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 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The HBCRLF program is administered by 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 the need for funds for cleanup grants and site assessments is high.

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 enable use of the funds for such projects and make 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB900
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND

REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/4/2021 Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will 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 Hawaii
5 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BFRLF) authority to enable sub-grants to eligible
6 public, private and non-profit entities for the assessment and cleanup of contaminated properties
7 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
19 the use of the loan funds to sub-grants will benefit the local community by having more lands to

1 be developed for affordable housing, public parks, and open areas. This will also promote infill
2 redevelopment that will provide more land available for housing away from productive
3 agricultural lands.

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

9 **Offered Amendments: None**

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



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 900

RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports HB 900, an Administration Bill, which amends 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. 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).

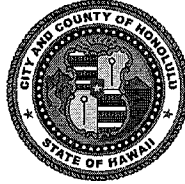
This measure is needed to authorize use of HBCRLF funds—currently limited to loans—for cleanup grants and site assessments, which are allowed under the EPA closeout agreement with DBEDT for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, and facilitate reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041
DEPT. WEB SITE: www.honolulu.dpp.org • CITY WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



DEAN UCHIDA
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection
Hawaii House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Committee Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 900
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** House Bill No. 900, which would enable use of the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund for loans and sub-grants to eligible entities for brownfields site assessments, cleanup activities of contaminated sites, and site monitoring activities necessary to determine the effectiveness of a cleanup.

This measure would allow the City and County of Honolulu to receive funding to support cleanup activities for public benefit, such as to create a new shoreline park envisioned on contaminated property along the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail. The DPP manages the City's brownfields assessment grant, which cannot be used for cleanup activities, and has identified a number of potential brownfields sites for cleanup, in close coordination with State agencies. These sites could potentially accommodate park and open space, as well as affordable housing.

Should you have any questions, please contact Harrison Rue, Community Building and Transit-Oriented Development Administrator, at 768-8294.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Uchida".

Dean Uchida
Director Designate