

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

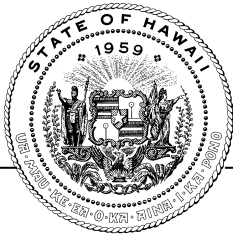
**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0167 SD1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN**

**REPRESENTATIVE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TINA WILDBERGER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**

Hearing Date: 3/17/2021

Room Number: 309 Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure is unlikely to impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive
2 Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** SB0167 SD1 seeks to establish objectives and policies to increase Hawaii's green
4 infrastructure. The Department supports this measure and has the following comments.
- 5 The Department recognizes that the changing climate is a worldwide environmental health problem that
6 directly impacts the health and safety of Hawaii's people, communities, and natural environment. Potential
7 human health effects resulting from climate change are broad reaching and include dangers from increased
8 natural disasters and flooding, changing vector-borne infectious diseases and food related infections, as well
9 as impacts on mental health and well-being. Our natural environment is also affected by climate change, with
10 negative impacts on air and water quality, changing conditions at sites with chemical contamination and
11 disruption of shorelines and beaches.
- 12 Increasing green infrastructure will have positive effects on the health of the people of Hawaii by helping to
13 reduce the health impacts of climate change. In particular, implementation of the projects in this measure are
14 likely to improve air quality, reduce heat related illness, and decrease psycho-social stressors. Efforts to
15 mitigate the health risks from climate change will help Hawaii adapt to the effects of climate change and help
16 keep our citizens safe and healthy.
- 17 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL REFORM
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 AM
State Capitol

in consideration of
SB 167, SD 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) **strongly supports** SB 167, SD 1. 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 and urban tree canopy throughout Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning finds these proposed amendments complimentary to the newly-established Statewide Sustainability Program, as well as with the objectives and responsibilities of the State's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Office of Planning, pursuant to [HRS § 225P-4](#).

Among other objectives, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is tasked to: “(5) *Identify practices and policies that add trees or vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures, increase climate resiliency, and improve greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawaii.*” The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is also tasked to submit a preliminary report of the task force's findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 2022.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to share its strong support of SB 167, SD 1 to increase Hawai'i's climate resiliency and implement sustainable design practices by improving the availability of green infrastructure, decreasing urban heat, and encouraging greenhouse gas sequestration throughout Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 167, SD 1.

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

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
GOVERNMENT REFORM

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 167, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Senate Bill 167, Senate 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 people with existing trails, and increasing urban tree canopy as objectives and policies for the environment. The bill also proposes to 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.**

Green infrastructure supports our economic and environmental well-being, providing essential ecosystem services and quality of life benefits. The Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program supports our communities' health, well-being, and resilience through promoting 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 looks forward to collaborating with the Office of Planning on developing priority guidelines to promote the use of green infrastructure in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-167-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:16:09 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather McMillen	DLNR	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for questions. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	John Miller	P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawaii 96823
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow	
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Jan Lubin	Lyn Pyle	

March 15, 2021

TO: Chair McKelvey and members of GVR Committee

RE: SB 167 SD1 Relating to the State Plan.

Support for hearing on March 17

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 167 SD1 as it would establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. It would add definition of "green infrastructure". It would 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 objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure.

Environmental protection has been an increasing concern of government. With climate change that path will likely continue or accelerate We will need resources and commitment to make a positive difference. We appreciate adjustments to the State Plan proposed in this bill.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President



SB167 SD1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘opololei ‘ana i ke Aupuni
House Committee on Government Reform

Malaki 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Lumi 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB167 SD1, which seeks to improve the quality of life for Hawai‘i residents by amending the State Planning Act to establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facilities. OHA **deeply appreciates** the recent SD1 amendments, and continues to support efforts to incorporate the use of green infrastructure for state facility systems, **particularly with the inclusion and integration of Hawaiian plants¹ that reflect Hawai‘i’s unique cultural and ecological heritage.**

Native Hawaiian culture is intimately tied to the land and its resources. Historically, each island, moku, and ahupua‘a supported varied and diverse plant life. Such plants were and continue to be essential to perpetuating place-based Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge. The connection between Native Hawaiian culture and Hawai‘i’s plant life is also evident in other forms: from place names based on regional flora (e.g., ‘Aiea, Hau‘ula, Kapālama), to mo‘olelo (e.g., ‘Ōhi‘a and Lehua), chants (e.g., the Kumulipo), and hula relating to and inspired by Hawaiian plants. **Accordingly, the increased presence of Hawaiian plants in the development of “green infrastructure” projects can help ensure that our cultural heritage is reflected in our public spaces, educating both residents and visitors as to the value and significance of our islands’ flora while also providing the environmental and health benefits realized from such projects.**

In addition, the increased use of Hawaiian plants in green infrastructure projects will help to reverse the rapid decline of these ecologically important species, as well as other native life that may depend upon them. The displacement and decline of Hawaiian plants, which are integral to our islands’ ecological heritage, have contributed significantly to Hawai‘i’s reputation as the “endangered species capitol of the world.” More than 270 of Hawai‘i’s plant species are now considered threatened or endangered; native animal species have also declined due to the lack of food and habitat historically provided by

¹ Per HRS § 103D-408, “‘Hawaiian plants’ means any endemic or indigenous plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, growing or living in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans; or any plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, brought to Hawaii by Polynesians before European contact, such as kukui, kalo, wauke, niu, noni, and kamani.”

such plants. As an advocate for our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, OHA recognizes that the extinction of Hawaiian plant and animal species can result in the extinction of associated traditional and customary practices and indigenous knowledge that have been passed down for millennia. Increasing the use of Hawaiian plants in public landscaping projects can help to reverse this trend, both directly, through the development of Hawaiian plant nurseries and maintenance practices, and through increased local knowledge of these plants' ecological importance.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB167 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The House Committee on Government Reform
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 10:00am

In strong support of SB167 SD1

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, 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 **SB167 SD1**.

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.

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 for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 (10:00 am)

RE: SB167 SD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, Members of the Committee on Government Reform:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a nonprofit 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 strongly support, contingent on inclusion of a critically important amendment articulated below, the above-referenced Bill, which establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems within the State Plan.

This Bill has an important accountability aspect by requiring 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 objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure. That's important because a plan is only a plan, execution is where the "rubber meets the road". We are confident that if all government agencies act in support of mitigating climate change this Bill will cause positive change.

That said, it is critical for the Legislature to make clear that trees are vital infrastructure and qualify for CIP funding. Trees for Honolulu's Future has run into situations in the past when civil servants have refused to recognize that trees are infrastructure, having long life and being fixed in place, just as are roads and buildings; thus, the need for clarification in the law.

Following is language we suggest in Section 2 of the Bill §226-___ :

(c) For the purpose of this section, "green infrastructure" means the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, including trees, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire water and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters. Capital Improvement Project funds may be used as a means of financing such measures when stationary and have life spans of over 15 years.

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

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

By making this change personnel in all state departments and political subdivisions that deal with infrastructure will understand that trees and other form of “green infrastructure” are just as much infrastructure as roads, storm water drainage systems. People, and the environment, will benefit in the process. The Legislature will arm the executive branch/counties to treat trees the same as any other kind of infrastructure. You, as legislators, will create not only policy, but a mind shift.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT CONSISTENT WITH REGULATORY BODIES

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards define “Infrastructure” as assets that have *"long lives and are usually stationary. Examples are roads, bridges, tunnels, sewer systems, and lighting systems."*¹ Trees meet this test -- they are stationary and, when installed correctly, have long lives.

Internally, State Department of Budget and Finance guidelines state capital projects usually have a lifespan of over 15 years. So again, green infrastructure/trees that are designed to be permanent, qualify for CIP as a MOF. TFHF simply wants the Legislature to be explicit because there is a lack of consistency with current operating practice to accept CIP as an acceptable means of funding tree / green infrastructure installations.

In closing, we want to stress that trees create multiple benefits well documented by research and noted in this Bill’s preamble. 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 stand ready to work with the Committee on the amendment. We will make all efforts to be online when the bill is taken up, however, if we are not, please note our contact information on the bottom of the first page of our testimony should there be any questions or need for elaboration. Thank you for your good work in ensuring a better future for Hawai’i.

The time for action putting green infrastructure on the same level as “traditional” infrastructure is now. We urge this Committee to make a strong stand by amending this Bill as outlined and sending it to the next Committee as an improved version.

Thank you.



Daniel Dinell, President
Trees for Honolulu’s Future

¹ See: https://www.sage.com/na/~media/site/Sage%20Fixed%20Assets/docs/GASB_Accounting.pdf

SB-167-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:48:18 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Government Reform

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 10:00 am

Position: In strong support of SB167 SD1

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Government Reform Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis by encouraging Hawaii to lead the way to a safer climate. **The Climate Protectors Hawaii strongly supports SB167 SD1.**

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, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to add the integration of green infrastructure and the promotion of green spaces to the State Planning Act. Specifically, this measure establishes:

(1) Objectives and policies regarding green infrastructure for facility systems;

- (2) Policies for scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources to promote green spaces;
- 3) Priority guidelines to promote the use of green infrastructure in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and.
- (4) Prioritizes the use of Hawaiian plants in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects and for scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources.

Amending the State Planning Act to to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in State facility systems, infrastructure and transit projects, with priority for Hawaiian plants, would improve the quality of life in Hawaii and help mitigate the climate crisis.

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

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-167-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 10:24:13 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB167 SD1. This bill would be fiscally and economically catastrophic for the State government—all for no meaningful climate benefit. No matter where one stands on the urgency to combat climate change, this bill is ineffective in abating temperature increases and slowing the rise of sea levels, while costing Hawaii tax payers millions of dollars to implement.

SB-167-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:53:05 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass sb167 to help ensure the state motto is relevant for future generations.

Good planning must contain the elements that sb167 represents. Please vote in favor.

With respect and aloha,

James G Trujillo
Kapa'a, HI 96746