

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 SB0167 SD1 HD2  
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN**

**REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Hearing Date: 4/1/2021

Room Number: 308 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 HD2 seeks to establish objectives and policies to increase Hawaii's  
4 green 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.



**SB167 SD1 HD2**  
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN  
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā  
House Committee on Finance

‘Apelila 1, 2021

1:30 p.m.

Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB167 SD1 HD2, 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 supports the green infrastructure policies and principles reflected in this measure, and **deeply appreciates the inclusion and integration of Hawaiian plants<sup>1</sup> that reflect Hawai‘i’s unique cultural and ecological heritage** in the use of green infrastructure for state facility systems.

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

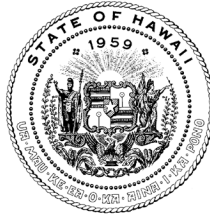
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<sup>1</sup> Per HRS § 103D-408, “‘Hawaiian plants’ means any endemic or indigenous plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, growing or living in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans; or any plant species, 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 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Thursday, April 1, 2021  
1:30 PM

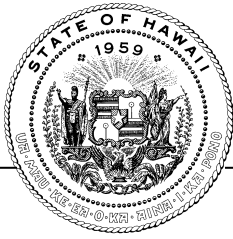
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 167, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Senate Bill 167, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2, 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. The urban tree canopy is declining and green space is being paved for convenience, and as a result, we are losing the benefits provided by urban green spaces and landcover. 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.



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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/>

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 FINANCE**  
Thursday, April 1, 2021  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**SB 167, SD 1, HD 2**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) **strongly supports** SB 167, SD 1, HD 2. 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](#).

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to share its strong support of SB 167, SD 1, HD 2 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, HD 2.

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:15:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB167 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Hearing: Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i strongly supports SB167 SD1 HD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i 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. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

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 Hawai'i and help mitigate the climate crisis.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The House Committee on Finance  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:30pm

**In strong support of SB167 SD1 HD2**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance committee,

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 HD2**.

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 FINANCE

Thursday, April 1, 2021 (1:30 pm)

**RE: SB167 SD1 HD2 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.**

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

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 support the above-referenced Bill, which establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems within the State Plan.

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.

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.

The time for action putting green infrastructure on the same level as "traditional" infrastructure is now.

Thank you.

Daniel Dinell, President  
Trees for Honolulu's Future

**HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL**

Visit us: [www.TreesForHonolulu.org](http://www.TreesForHonolulu.org) Contact us: [info@TreesForHonolulu.org](mailto:info@TreesForHonolulu.org) Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353  
P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:16:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:31:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong resident, I am in **full support** of this measure, to prioritize the use of Hawaiian plants, where feasible, in the State Planning Act. This bill will strengthen our Hawaiian sense of place and the biodiversity and resilience of our plants and animals, as well as enrich not only our experience living here as locals, but also visitors coming to enjoy Hawai'i as unique to any other place in the world. Also, sustainable practices and green infrastructure is Necessary for our health, the health of our plants and animals, and the quality of life for our future generations! Please **PASS** SB167 SD1 HD2! Mahalo nui.

Olan Leimomi Fisher (Mililani, O'ahu)

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:35:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Keli'i Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong resident, I am in **full support** of this measure, to prioritize the use of Hawaiian plants, where feasible, in the State Planning Act. This bill will strengthen our Hawaiian sense of place and the biodiversity and resilience of our plants and animals, as well as enrich not only our experience living here as locals, but also visitors coming to enjoy Hawai'i as unique to any other place in the world. Also, sustainable practices and green infrastructure are Necessary for our health, the health of our plants and animals, and the quality of life for our future generations! Please **PASS** SB167 SD1 HD2! Mahalo nui.

Scott Keli'i Fisher (Mililani, O'ahu)

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:46:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charles Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to ensure the consideration of Hawaiian plants in all public areas where the State has control. My only problem with it is that it notes that it doesn't take effect until 2050. I doubt I will be around to see its implementation.

Charles Morgan

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:14:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

We wholly support the immediate passage of SB167 SD1 HD2 to begin constructing the green infrastructure portion of the Hawaii State Plan. Without this segment of the plan we cannot fully address the critical existential issue of our time--climate change.

This new "green" infrastructure will touch all facets of our lives in Hawaii: energy, transportation, building efficiency, coastlines, population, many of our occupations and much more. By implementing sustainable design concepts we will improve our urban areas and city parks, our agriculture and forestry industries, preserve our water resources, natural areas and historic and cultural sites, making life better for all kama'aina and our visitors.

Please seek out leading experts in other states/countries to assist Hawaii in making the best decisions in the many functional areas that will be affected. We can truly make Hawaii's quality of life second to none while at the same time mitigating climate and social issues.

Thank you for listening and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas, Ronald Yasuda – Aiea, Hawaii

**SB-167-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:09:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karynne L C Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong part-Hawaiian resident, I am in full support of this measure, to prioritize the use of Hawaiian plants, where feasible, in the State Planning Act. This bill will strengthen our Hawaiian sense of place, the biodiversity and resilience of our plants and animals, and the education of both young and old, locals and visitors of our unique green home. Sustainable practices and green infrastructure is a necessity for our health; the health of our plants, animals and environment; and the quality of life for our future generations! Please PASS SB167 SD1 HD2! Mahalo nui.