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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Thursday, February 17, 2022
3:05 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2613
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Senate Bill 2613 proposes to add a new section to Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, entitled Sustainable development goals. The seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are a commitment to conservation, sustainability, and economic development. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as it complements ongoing Department initiatives.**

Goal 2: The State has followed the lead of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and created the Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation (<http://laukahi.org/hawaii-strategy-for-plant-conservation/>) to secure seed collections from 75% of Hawaii's most important plant species by 2030. The Department continues to support the diversification of agricultural systems by providing technical and financial assistance through the Forest Stewardship Program to landowners interested in developing agroforestry systems.

Goal 3: Urban forest areas and tree-lined streets have been shown to lead to better public health outcomes including increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Research indicates that placing trees next to freeways and roads, and having roads pass through and by green areas, reduces driver stress.

Goal 4: The Department partners with organizations who use state funding to leverage grant funds to provide service-learning programs in conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability as a catalyst to restore communities and build a more sustainable future for Hawaii. The Department also supports training for educators through place-based environmental curricula aligned with national teaching standards for students.

Goal 6: The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is actively carrying out management actions to work toward this goal to protect 30% (253,000 acres) of priority watersheds by 2030, as are 10 Watershed Partnerships across the state representing public and private landowners across five islands.

Goal 8: Green jobs will be an important part of a growing sustainable economy. The most recent statistical analysis of the green job market by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), showed 15,583 green jobs in Hawaii accounting for 2.7% of overall employment level, which is higher than the corresponding national level (2.4%).

Goal 9: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation* aligns with our Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Goal 11: Make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, includes the preservation, maintenance, and expansion of green infrastructure, including our urban forests and trees. Urban forests can play a significant role in building healthier communities and people, cooling heat islands in cities, improving sales in business districts, and protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption.

Protecting and increasing the footprint of our native forests could have as much of an impact on mitigating the effects of climate change as reducing our carbon emissions. Protecting and managing our coral reefs will help sustain Hawaii's marine ecosystems into the future.

Goal 13: By reforesting grasslands under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife alone, the State could sequester five billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Native forests also mitigate climate change by keeping the islands cooler, protecting our reefs from being smothered by runoff, protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption, and efficiently collecting rainwater for our aquifers. Increased capacity for marine management will also help mitigate climate change through invasive species and reef restoration projects.

The work of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission addresses equity issues. Working with the State Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator, the City and County of Honolulu's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency office, and the other County sustainability officers, as well as on a national level with the 18-Governor US Climate Alliance, the Commission's focus is on resilience and clean energy. The commission proposes to develop a technical assistance program for state and county agencies dealing with vulnerability to climate impacts (especially sea level rise) and provide coordination and support for clean transportation options. These strategies resonate with the proposed measure's intent to help Hawaii achieve its energy, climate change and sustainability goals.

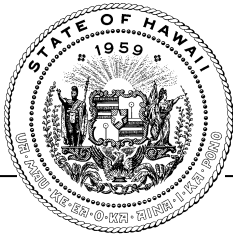
Goal 14: A comprehensive marine plan is needed to conserve and sustain Hawaii's ocean and marine resources by implementation of statewide management actions, including:

- fisheries management to improve nearshore ecosystems, ensure responsible use, and sustainably manage key food fish species;
- development of a statewide network of priority areas for effective management of at least 30% of Hawaii's nearshore waters, working collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify management options appropriate for each place;
- encouragement of responsible behavior through voluntary compliance and enforcement of rules related to nearshore fisheries and ecosystems;
- prevention of marine pollution, and the prioritization of monitoring and data analysis to inform adaptive management.

Goal 15 is core to the Department's terrestrial mission to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and cultural and historic resources, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

Goal 17: *Strengthen the means of implementation* speaks to the need to bring resources to bear for the work. The Department has been working to leverage funding for conservation actions, including building partnerships to help manage and steward Hawaii's natural resources, and is currently exploring a public-private partnership for a voluntary carbon offset/credit program that would fund improved forest management and the reforestation of grassland areas on Maui and Hawaii islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Thursday, February 17, 2022
3:05 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2613
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Governmental Operations:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers comments** on SB 2613, which codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goals and indicators within the Hawai'i State Planning Act.

While the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development previously supported this legislation between 2018-2020; in lieu of this legislation's passage, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development took the initiative and used the intent of this legislation –the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals– as the guiding framework of the revision and update of the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#), the State's official climate and sustainability strategic action plan for the 2020-2030 Decade of Action, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65, which was recently published in June 2021. The Statewide Sustainability Branch also directly worked with the United Nations as a stakeholder in the update of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development strongly supports the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the U.N. Decade of Action. However, given the urgency of the Decade of Action, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development recommends State implement the SDGs through financing and executing the planning, coordination, and implementation of our numerous state laws, plans, and policies, and the State of Hawai'i's sustainability and climate statutory targets, which presently align with the SDGs, as well as the 8 Focus Areas, 38 Strategies, and 262 recommendations set forth in the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan to ensure Hawai'i can meet our collective vision for an equitable, climate resilient, and sustainable Hawai'i during this Decade of Action by 2030.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2613

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 4:14:01 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/17/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Global is the Enemy We will stick to are National Heratige!!