

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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 Senate Committee on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Thursday February 18, 2021
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 016

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 694
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Senate Bill 694, 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 reduced crime, and reduced vehicle speeds which increases 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 uses 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. Many departmental interns have gone on to successful careers in the Department and elsewhere.

The Department also supports training for educators through Project Learning Tree that connects placed based environmental issues 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 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations estimates that there are over 11,000 green jobs making up 2.4 percent of Hawaii's private sector job market.

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 will 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, which is echoed in the Commission's mission statement. By continuing to work 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. It proposes to develop a technical assistance program for state and county agencies dealing with vulnerability to climate impacts (especially sea level rise), to be conducted by experts; and provide coordination and support for a number of clean (and sustainable) 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 rules, 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 adequate resources to bear for the work. The Department has been working to identify alternative means of funding 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 the reforestation of grassland areas on Maui and Hawaii islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:18:43 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leah Laramée | Testifying for DLNR | Support | No |

Comments:

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/18/2021
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: CR 016 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Government
Operations

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0694 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Purpose of Bill: Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and indicators.

Department's Position:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 694. The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is in support of this bill.

Hawaii has been a leader in sustainability across the nation and the Department appreciates this measure, which clearly articulates a defined set of goals and objectives for the State to work together toward increased sustainability and an improvement in the quality of life for our state's residents.

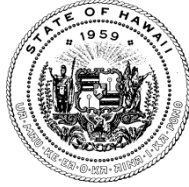
The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals mirror our own vision for education within our state. In particular, goal 4 articulates a number of actions toward ensuring inclusive and equitable education that align with the Department's focus on literacy, career and technical education, teacher recruitment and retention, and expanding the Department's partnerships.

The Department is actively engaged in several initiatives that will further the objectives elucidated in goal 4 and looks forward to working collaboratively with other state offices toward these ends and other objectives delineated in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 694.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises

to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 18, 2021
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 694
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Department of Transportation **supports** this bill to codify the State's commitment to conservation, sustainability, and economic development by including the seventeen United Nations' sustainable development goals and indicators, with references to existing state sustainability programs, in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Notably, the DOT supports:

- Goal 3(F) Halve the number of State deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- Goal 11(B) Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, and improve road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



SB694
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Hana Aupuni

Pepeluali 18, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Lumi 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB694, which codifies the state’s commitment to conservation, sustainability, and economic development by including the United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and indicators in the state’s Planning Act, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 226, to sustainably improve life for future generations, including Native Hawaiians.

OHA has long advocated for the implementation of meaningful policies which build off our strategic foundations of ‘Āina (connection to “that which feeds,” or our earth), Mo‘omeheu (cultural beliefs and practices), and ‘Ohana (familial support and guidance). OHA’s commitment to **‘Āina** involves strengthening our ancestral connections to ‘āina through responsible stewardship of our legacy lands and sustainable development of our economically viable land holdings. We work to strengthen our **Mo‘omeheu** by supporting ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and other cultural activities and initiatives in Hawai‘i and beyond. OHA promotes healthy **‘Ohana** relationships by providing opportunities for communities to engage in ‘āina and mo‘omeheu based activities and initiatives, including through civic participation and leadership. These three main foundations build the base for our strategic directions of creating Educational Pathways, Economic Stability, Quality Housing, and Health Outcomes for our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, directions that in turn also benefit all Hawai‘i locals and visitors alike.

Unfortunately, continuing research shows persistent inequities for Native Hawaiians when compared with the general population in education, health, economic self-sufficiency, and housing security. To address these inequities, OHA has engaged and continues to engage in collaborative efforts with public, private, and non-profit institutions that interact with and impact Native Hawaiian well-being.

OHA believes that the sustainable development goals described in this measure align with our historical and ongoing advocacy, programs, and initiatives relating to our own strategic foundations and directions, and is a step towards ensuring a more equitable future that both empowers Native Hawaiians and strengthens Hawai‘i by increasing the state’s commitment to conservation, sustainability, and responsible economic development.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB694. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations
Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 3:00 P.M.
Via Videoconference**

RE: SB 694, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair Moriwaki, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 694 which codifies 17 United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and indicators to transform our world by 2030.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The seventeen goals set by the United Nations helps to provide a holistic approach to sustainable development for the State of Hawaii. We believe in the benefits of a sustainable future and recognize the important role the business community plays to ensure that these goals are met, and by working with stakeholders to help create practical, reasonable and rational solutions to address these important issues.

SB 694 aligns with our state's commitment to conservation, sustainability, and economic development, and that the adoption of this measure will supplement the State's existing sustainability goals, empower collective government and private conservation efforts in Hawaii to preserve and improve the State's communities and environment, and contribute to global efforts designed to build a more sustainable future for the world.

Ultimately, the goals of our efforts are to improve the well-being of individuals, families, and the communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 9:07:35 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dyson Chee | Testifying for Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition | Support | No |

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB694.



Testimony of the Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC)

Before:

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Senator Donovan Y. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Government Operations (GVO)

February 17, 2021, at 3 pm
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Re: SB694 Relating to Sustainable Community Goals

The Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC) strongly supports this resolution.

As a non-profit agency that is interested in support for **HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and vaccines**, we are writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB694. This measure provides clear guidance for aligning Hawaii's efforts with the global health community (Goal 3).

The Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC) is a statewide, community-based non-profit 501(c) 3 coalition of public and private organizations and concerned individuals whose mission is to promote effective strategies to ensure that all Hawaii's families are appropriately vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases. Focus: Immunizations across the lifespan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 2:19:35 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Geyer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for your support of this measure which will set important goals that must be met to ensure we leave a decent world for the next generation.

Matthew Geyer

Chair - Environmental Justice Task Force of Faith Action for Community Equity

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 9:21:52 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thaddeus Pham | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha GVO Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB694, which provides clear guidance for aligning Hawai'i's efforts with the global health community. In particular, I commend the measure for inclusion of **HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and vaccines** in Goal 3 as important health issues for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 6:49:50 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB694.

Hawaii has been a leader in sustainability, let's keep it that way.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 2:42:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judy Strait-Jones | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I **strongly** support SB694 relating to sustainable goals. This measure provides clear guidance for aligning Hawaii's goals in support of HIV/AIDS, vaccines and hepatitis elimination.

LATE

SB-694

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 10:23:17 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mia Estrada-Morse | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha nā GVO committee members,

As a freshman student at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, I have gained a profound interest in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Hawaiian people once lived in Ahupuaʻa systems, arguably one of the most sustainable lifestyles in history. This bill will provide a much needed sense of renewal for the state of Hawaiʻi and the act of codifying the sustainability goals has the ability to return our state to a condition that will prosper forever. Although I support all 17 goals, I will be going over the few that I especially feel passionate about.

Goal 2 of the sustainability goals is Zero Hunger and I believe this will strongly benefit Hawaiʻi. 1 in 9 people and 1 in 5 children struggle with hunger in Hawaiʻi according to Feeding America. Many families struggle to afford food, especially during the pandemic. Various groups have been working hard to provide prepared meals at food distributions. Yet, Donni Sheather on the island of Hawaiʻi partakes in a food distribution and she says they are running out of money, according to Hawaiʻi News Now. Millions are depending on food aids at the time and the number of people that are benefitting from that proves just how severe the hunger crisis in Hawaiʻi is. We need this bill to help recover from the challenges COVID has created, and ensure hunger is not a continuing problem in our islands.

Another pivotal goal is goal 8, which is in regards to decent work and economic growth. Many Hawaiʻi citizens struggle financially and have difficulty earning a job and this issue has only heightened following COVID-19. Although it is inevitable there will be those who simply cannot afford to live and thrive in Hawaiʻi, perhaps with goal 8, more job security will be ensured and more individuals will benefit financially in order to not only support themselves

normally but during an unprecedented time like this when everyone is unsure and in fear of what is to come.

The final goal I wish to highlight is goal 14, which will care for life below water is another objective that will immensely impact Hawai'i for the better. A significant issue in Hawai'i, is the mistreatment of the ocean and the life that resides in it. Personally, I have seen citizens take part in animal brutality on countless occasions on social media. Common animals that are mistreated include sea turtles, monk seals, and sharks among many others. Not to mention, the catastrophic amount of garbage that affects ocean life has been an ongoing issue for many years. With the passing of this bill, my hope is that the well-being of our precious ocean and marine life will ameliorate.

Conclusively, adopting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is exactly what Hawai'i needs to thrive. Our home will undoubtedly benefit from every objective that is a part of this movement. Most crucially, these goals will help to prepare for the next generation to flourish in a IÄ• hui that is considerably revived. Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Mia Estrada-Morse

Kamehameha Schools KapÄ• lama

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