



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

**Date:** 03/02/2021  
**Time:** 09:30 AM  
**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai  
Legislative Testimony

**SB694**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Malaki 2, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Lumi 211

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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 the lives of future generations of Hawai‘i residents, 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 also seek to strengthen our **Mo‘omeheu** by supporting ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and other cultural activities and initiatives in Hawai‘i and beyond. OHA further seeks to promote 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 are further reflected in our current 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 of Hawai‘i.

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.

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 Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday March 2, 2021  
9:30AM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211**

**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 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 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.

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. 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 a number of 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 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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.  
Written Testimony**

**RE: SB 694, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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: 2/28/2021 5:42:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, appreciates the intent of SB 694.

The bill ignores the gender spectrum and we would hope that this committee would address this oversight before moving this bill forward.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i





Testimony of the Hawaii Immunization Coalition (HIC)

Before:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

March 2, 2021, at 9:30 am  
Conference Room 211 & 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.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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February 28, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB694 RE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m. Room 211, via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Human Environmental Impacts Committee are in **strong support** of SB694 as it codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and indicators.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its State Convention in 2018, clear safeguards for our community against the climate crisis found in pages 1-2 of the Party Platform:

Based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we also join in support of the following:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,
5. Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere to the gender binary;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wage for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality among our people and communities;
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
SB694 – RE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
March 2, 2021  
Page 2

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Please pass this important and overdue legislation as the U.N. 17 Sustainable Development Goals have been adopted by the Democratic Party of Hawai`i in its 2018 Party Platform. In addition, these Sustainable Development Goals provide the necessary framework to move toward a more sustainable and resilient Hawai`i.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this key issue.

Respectfully yours,

Alan Burdick and  
Melodie Aduja  
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus  
Co-Chairs, Human Environmental Impacts Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai`i

**SB-694**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:27:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duane Sosa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!!!

My name is Duane Sosa. I am humbly submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to SB694. I am vehemently opposed to the United Nations dictating and determining on behalf of the people of Hawaii how we should "Sustainable." I feel the State Government should dissolve any and all relations to the United Nations entirely because I do not believe they have the people of Hawaii's best interests in mind. In addition, there is no such thing as GLOBAL WARMING.

Mahalo

**SB-694**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:27:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee, I'm pleased to SUPPORT SB694 which has lots of good stuff!  
Mahalo for your service & Malama Pono,

James McCay  
Honolulu

**SB-694**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:17:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

Please support - crucial roadmap going forward.