



**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 COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
AND WATER AND LAND**
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
on
SCR 224/SR217
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO
EVALUATE THE OUTCOME OF THE HAWAII 2000 CONFERENCE AND TO INCORPORATE
A HAWAII 2050 CONFERENCE INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HAWAII 2050
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN.**

Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers comments** on SCR 224 and SR217, which requests the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to evaluate the outcome of the Hawai'i 2000 conference and to incorporate a Hawai'i 2050 conference into the development of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

The OPSD-Statewide Sustainability Branch respectfully does not believe this resolution is necessary at this time. The history of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, dates back to Act 8, Special Session Laws of 2005, and was unrelated to the Hawai'i 2000 Conference. The plan was later published in 2008. Act 8 (SSLH 2005) required a 10 year update to be published by the State Auditor with the assistance of the State Office of Planning. While no funding was provided for that 10-year update, the State Auditor, the State Sustainability Coordinator, and the Director of the Office of Planning agreed to publish a 10-year measurement of progress from the 2008 plan. The State Sustainability Coordinator and the Office of Planning later agreed to take this update responsibility and worked in collaboration with the State Legislature to update and codify the future development of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan via Act 146, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2019. Act 146 (SLH 2019) funded the recent update of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan with only a \$150,000 appropriation, and with that funding the Office of Planning spent 1.5 years to update the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan: Charting a Course for the Decade of Action (2020-2030) was published in June 2021 after a 1.5 year extensive public outreach process during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020-2021. This extensive public outreach yielded over 230 diverse organizations participation, roughly a thousand public participants, included 2 public surveys, and 9 virtual public information sessions, social media advertising, and over 2,000 public engagement and coordination emails—managed by the sole employee of the State Sustainability Branch and the contracted Project Team at ICF. Despite these significant funding and staffing limitations of the State, the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan met its mandate to serve as the State of Hawai'i's climate and sustainability strategic action plan in alignment with the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The plan identifies 8 specific Focus Areas, and 38 Strategies and 262 Recommended Actions for the State of Hawai'i to undertake during this most vital decade of climate action.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development appreciates the intent of this resolution, but respectfully recommends the State should focus on implementing and executing the many recommendations for Hawai'i's climate action and sustainable development within these vital 8 years. The State Sustainability Branch further recommends the State Legislature fund the necessary staffing and provide the needed budget for this branch and agency to execute its mandate to provide statewide sustainability and climate planning, coordination, and implementation, in accordance with HRS 225M-8.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SCR-224

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 3:31:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/30/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryden Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Wakai, Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Misalucha, and Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran:

I am testifying in support of this resolution.

In 1970, Governor Burns supported a project to uncover what Hawaii residents wanted to see become of the state by the year 2000 in a variety of areas. The project consisted of several task forces that convened regularly over the period of a year and a three-day conference held at the Ilikai Hotel. By its end, more than 2,000 residents participated in completing 18 official reports as part of the project.

The Hawaii 2000 reports benefit from gathering input from residents from all walks of life—ethnicity, socioeconomic background, age, geography—and subject matter experts. The Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan does not currently do this.

While the 2050 Sustainability Plan in its current state is good, it can be greatly improved by adding additional perspectives similar to those included in Hawaii 2000.

The Hawaii 2000 reports analyzed a wide variety of issues that are not currently included in the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Report, such as an analysis of politics, art, lifestyles, and community. While these subjects may not need to be explicitly added to the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Report, it would greatly benefit from including these perspectives and considering these factors.

The Hawaii 2000 reports outlined hopes and made a handful of predictions and forecasts. Evaluation of our progress on these goals set for the year 2000 will help us gauge how well we are doing in our current position and may help to create a sense of urgency around the change we are seeking to initiate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I hope you consider this resolution worthy of adoption.