

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, February 10, 2023, 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 1521
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LAND USE.

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers the following **comments** on SB 1521, which requires the OPSD to create an integrated land use plan for the use the Agricultural District. Requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Hawai'i Tourism Authority to update various state functional plans. Requires the counties to update their general plans. Appropriates moneys.

The OPSD understands the need for such legislation. Hawai'i is challenged by the need to address the scarcity of land and the issue of competing uses and needs for development, production, and preservation within Hawai'i's Agricultural District. OPSD agrees that land use should incorporate the recommendations of the State's climate adaptation and sustainability strategic action plan (the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#)¹), the Hawai'i State Planning Act established in Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 226, the [Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report](#),² and the [Feasibility and Implications of Managed Retreat Strategies for Vulnerable Coastal Areas](#).³

OPSD agrees that a comprehensive land use analysis is also needed to review and incorporate the State's outstanding 21 climate and sustainability statutory targets and the State's affordable rental housing target into future land use proposals as codified in law, which is aggregated for reference in the attached appendix.⁴

¹ The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan was published in 2021 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development-Statewide Sustainability Branch, and officially serves as the State of Hawai'i's climate adaptation and sustainability strategic action plan, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65 and the Hawai'i State Planning Act. Available online: <https://hawaii2050.hawaii.gov>

² The Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report was published in 2017 by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-3. Available online: https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf

³ The Assessment of the Feasibility and Implications of Managed Retreat Strategies for Vulnerable Coastal Areas was published in 2019 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development-Coastal Zone Management Program.

⁴ The State's Climate and Sustainability Statutory Targets are aggregated in Pages 14-15 of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan. Available online: <https://hawaii2050.hawaii.gov>.

The OPSD agrees that the State Functional Plans identified on Page 7 of SB 1521 need updating to meet the State of Hawai‘i’s 21st century economic development, energy, transportation, agriculture, conservation, and tourism issues as identified in this bill. OPSD notes that the [Hawai‘i State Plan Update: Phase 1](#),⁵ published in 2018, identified the need to update these Functional Plans along with all others not identified by this bill that were published between 1984-1991, with the exception of the [Housing State Functional Plan](#),⁶ which was recently updated in 2017. In accordance with Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §226-55 through -57, the OPSD will work collaboratively with the appropriate state agencies primarily responsible for the given functional areas identified by this bill.

The appropriations to the functional agencies and the timeline to report these Functional Plans to the Governor and Legislature 20 days prior to the 2025 Regular Session, in Section 2 (e), Section 3, and Section 5 of SB 1521, seem reasonable, however OPSD defers to the functional lead agencies on their fiscal and implementation requirements.

Finally, the OPSD has recommended amendments for the costs required by OPSD to undertake this unprecedented Integrating Land Use planning process required by SB 1521, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in OPSD Executive Budget:

- 1) Revising the Preamble language on Page 2, line 2 to replace “and environmentally” with “climate adaptive and”, and deleting “environmental” on Page 2, line 10.
- 2) Codifying the requirements set forth in SB 1521 within “Part II. The Planning Coordination and Implementation” section of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act. Specifically, by:
 - Deleting Page 2, line 16, and
 - Revising Page 2, lines 13-15 to codify the proposed amendments into Part II of Chapter 226.
- 3) Renaming this “Integrated Land Use Plan” to an “Integrated Land Use Study” throughout the Preamble and sections of SB 1521, for clarity between the proposed Integrating Land Use planning process and the Functional Plan updates. Specifically, on:
 - Page 2, lines 5, 10, 17, 18, and 20
 - Page 3, lines 7, 13, 15, and 17
 - Page 5, line 15
 - Page 6, lines 1, 4, 6, and 9
- 4) Adding on Page 3, lines 7-12 within section (c) that the integrated land use study “shall also give consideration to the 2022 State Land Use Review of Districts,⁷ Hawai‘i State

⁵ The Hawai‘i State Plan Update: Phase 1 was published in 2018 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development- Special Plans Branch.

⁶ The State Housing Functional Plan was published in 2017 by the Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, with the support of the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §226-56. Available online: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/docs/Housing_2017.pdf

⁷ The State Land Use Review of Districts was published in 2022 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development- Land Use Division. Available online: <https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/lud/20220128%20State%20Boundary%20Review-Final/SLUReviewofDistricts1-28-22Final3.pdf>

[Plan Update: Phase 1, and the Soil Classification Study required by Act 189, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.](#)⁸

- 5) Revising language on Page 3, line 11 by changing the word, “other” to “state’s”.
- 6) Adding language to Page 5, line 2 suggesting that the updated Tourism Functional Plan “to align with the Destination Management Action Plans.”
- 7) Adding language on Page 5, line 6, inserting “the state’s” before “twenty-first century climate and sustainability statutory targets;”
- 8) Adding a new Section (4) on Page 5, following line 10 to: “Amendments to align with the Hawai'i State Plan Update: Phase 1.”
- 9) Deleting the language found on Page 6, lines-6-9 and Section 7 on Pages 8 and 9, which requires the counties to update their general plans, community plans, and other land use project proposals. The County General Plans are already required to be updated to conform with the Hawai'i State Planning Act and the State Functional Plans, as mandated by Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§226-52 and -58.
- 10) Adding the same Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist (1.0) FTE position in Section 6 to Section 4, and increasing the total sum in Section 4 of the FY 2023-2024 appropriation to \$700,000 to assist the OPSD develop definitive data and submit its report as mandated by SB 1521 by December 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁸ The comprehensive Soil Classifications Study was charged by the Legislature in the 2022 Legislative Session to study the suitability of soil classification systems, including the soil overall (master) productivity rating system and detailed land classification of the land study bureau, for the regulation of agricultural lands by the State and counties; and is due to the Legislature in December 2023.”

SB 1521: Appendix

An Aggregation of the State of Hawai‘i’s mandated climate, sustainability, and housing statutory targets

By 2025:	1) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2025 requires the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 10% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost.	1) HRS §27-8
By 2026:	1) Affordable Rental Housing Target: Establishes a goal for the State Government to develop or vest the development of at least 22,500 affordable rental housing units ready for occupancy between 01/01/2017-12/31/2026.	1) Act 127, SLH 2016 ⁹
By 2030:	<p>1) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2030 requires the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 18% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost.</p> <p>2) Farm-to-School Target: Requires the DOE to serve 30% of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.</p> <p>3) Doubling Local Food Target: Directing the State Department of Agriculture to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and increase food exports out of the State by 2030.</p> <p>4) EEPS Target: Requiring the PUC to establish the Energy-Efficiency Portfolio Standards (EEPS) target requiring that 4,300 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity use statewide be reduced by 2030.</p> <p>5) RPS Target: Requires each electric utility company that sells electricity to establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 40% of its net electricity generation by 12/31/2030.</p> <p>6) GHG Emission Limit: Establishing a statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limit target to be 50% below the level of statewide greenhouse gas emissions in 2005.</p> <p>7) State Fleet ZEV Transition: Requires the State to transition all light-duty motor vehicles that are passenger cars in the State’s fleet to be zero-emission vehicles by 12/31/2030.</p>	<p>1) HRS §27-8</p> <p>2) HRS §302A-405.6</p> <p>3) Act 151, SLH 2019</p> <p>4) HRS §269-96</p> <p>5) HRS §269-92</p> <p>6) Act 238, SLH 2022, codified as HRS 225P-5, as amended.</p> <p>7) Act 74, SLH 2021, codified as HRS §§ 225P-7, 264-20.7, and 196-9 (c) (11), as amended.</p>

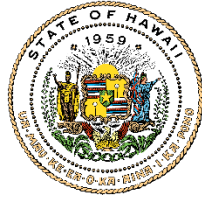
⁹ The Affordable Rental Housing Report and 10-Year Plan was published in 2018 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development-Special Plans Branch. Available online: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/AffordableRentalHousingReport_10YearPlan.pdf

SB 1521 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LAND USE
 State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
 February 10, 2023

<p>By 2035:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DOE Net-Zero Energy Target: Requires the DOE to become net-zero in energy use, producing as much renewable energy as it consumes across all public schools by 01/01/2035. 2) UH Net-Zero Energy Target: Requires the UH to become net-zero in energy use, producing as much renewable energy as it consumes across all campuses by 01/01/2035. 3) State Fleet ZEV Transition: Requires the State to transition all light-duty motor vehicles in the State’s fleet to be zero-emission vehicles by 12/31/2035. 4) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2035 requiring the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 26% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HRS §320A-1510 2) HRS §304A-119 3) Act 74, SLH 2021, codified as HRS §§ 225P-7, 264-20.7, and 196-9 (c) (11), as amended. 4) HRS §27-8
<p>By 2040:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) RPS Target: Requires each electric utility company that sells electricity to establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 70% of its net electricity generation by 12/31/2030. 2) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2040 requires the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 34% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HRS §269-92 2) HRS §27-8
<p>By 2045:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reclaimed Water in All State and County Facilities: Requires the use of reclaimed water in 100% of State and County facilities, except for drinking and potable water uses, by 12/31/2045. 2) Zero Emissions Clean Economy Target: Requires the State to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted within the state as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045. 3) RPS Target: Requires each electric utility company that sells electricity to establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 100% of its net electricity generation by 12/31/2045. 4) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2045 requires the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 42% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HRS §174C-31 (g) (6) 2) HRS §225P-5 3) HRS §269-92 4) HRS §27-8
<p>By 2050:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Statewide Cesspool Conversion: Requires the mandatory upgrade, conversion, or connection of all cesspools statewide by 01/01/2050. 2) Farm-to-State Target: By 01/01/2050 requires the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH to purchase 50% of the fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products of the total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HRS §342D-72 2) HRS §27-8

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Friday, February 10, 2023
9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1521
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Senate Bill 1521 proposes to have the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) develop an Integrated Land Use Plan for agriculture districts, and appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the goals of the bill, and offers comments.**

The Department is supportive of projects that address the challenging issues facing our State that will be address by an integrated land use plan, including increasing food production, developing renewable energy resources, and sequestering atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gasses.

The development of the Plan will require OPSD to gather existing data from various departments in the state regarding current uses of agricultural lands. While the Department's primary focus is on conservation lands, we will work closely with OPSD to ensure that they have any data they need on any agriculture-zoned lands under our jurisdiction.

However, the Department notes that Senate Bill 1521 requires that we update the State Functional Plan on Conservation (page 4, line 16). The Conservation Plan was a short-term planning document from 1991 that focused on budget needs for the fiscal years 1991 to 1993. It was used alongside other state functional plans in the development of the broader Hawai'i State Plan.

The Department currently provides yearly "Act 100" reports to the legislature that detail the goals, policies, and objectives of each program. We believe these reports will be valuable in assisting OPSD with fulfilling the goals of Senate Bill 1521.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

As the Department finds the Functional Plan to be an archival document of historical interest, we do not see value in updating it. The Department respectfully asks that the requirement to update it, on page 4 lines 16 and 17, be deleted from the bill. With this change we could support Senate Bill 1521.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023
ROOM 224
1:00 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 1521
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Chairpersons Inouye and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1521 that amends the Hawaii State Plan by adding a new part for an "integrated land use plan for agricultural districts" (Plan) to be created by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD). The purpose of the Plan is "to develop land use data that can lead to planning and decision-making for the competing uses of land within an agricultural district" (page 2, line 21 to page 3, line 2). The Department of Agriculture (Department) is concerned how the proposed Plan will impact agricultural producers and agricultural land and water resources throughout the State. The Department has summarized the major portions of this measure and provides comments.

This Plan is to incorporate recommendations from the Hawaii sea level rise and vulnerability and adaptation report, the managed retreat strategies for vulnerable coastal areas report, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, and other climate, sustainability, and housing statutory targets (page 3, line 7-12). The Department believes the sources of recommendations and their prioritization needs to be thoroughly vetted.

The Plan will also include recommendations from the counties (page 3, lines 13-14) but it is not clear at what point during the Plan's development the counties will be making their recommendations.



OPSD is to “develop definitive data on the amount of land required to meet the goals of identifying competing uses by compiling and analyzing data existing data” (page 3, lines 20-21) from a number of State departments, agencies, the Public Utilities Commission, and the counties. “Secondary” input will be sought from other organizations (page 4, lines 6-9). The Department is very concerned about calculating the acreage of agricultural land needed to achieve certain goals. Increasing local food self-sufficiency and non-edible agricultural production is among the State’s most important goals. Hawaii’s diverse agricultural activities range from intensive uses on small acreage and extensive land uses such as cattle grazing and biomass production for conversion into fuel. From a strictly monetary value perspective, these agricultural activities stand little chance when directly compared to higher valued land uses such as residential development.

Separately, the State Functional Plans for energy, agriculture, conservation lands, transportation, and tourism are to be updated by the subject departments with specific emphasis on repealing outdated agricultural economic language, align plans with 21st century climate and sustainability statutory targets, and the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan (page 4, line 10 to page 5, line 14). The existing Agricultural Functional Plan, while very dated (1991) was very comprehensive and defensible, and the actions proposed were thoroughly vetted and with budgets proposed.

Outreach activities for the Plan are required, however, the Department comments that it is not clear at what point during the Plan’s development the outreach will be done (page 5, lines 15-16). The “definitive data” to be collected by OPSD on the amount of land required to meet the goals of “identifying competing uses” (page 3, lines 20-21) is to be analyzed with the “available acreage of [agricultural] land in each county along with the impacts for the proposed change” (page 5, lines 18-20).

Each of the four counties are to update their respective general and community plans and other land use project proposals to conform to the Plan and updated State Functional Plans (Page 6, lines 6-7).

There are multiple appropriations to OPSD, the five Functional Plan agencies, and to the four counties to update their general and community plans and other land use project proposals (page 6, line 15 to page 9, line 2).

The Department of Agriculture has concerns about the complex process described above and the manner in which agricultural lands may be redistributed to other competing uses. The Department is very concerned how this measure will eventually affect Hawaii agricultural producers and the land and water resources they

require to support their businesses and contribute to the State's priority in increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



LAND USE COMMISSION

Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR

DANIEL ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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February 9, 2023

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
**Senate Committees on
Water and Land
And
Agriculture and Environment**

Friday February 10, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 224

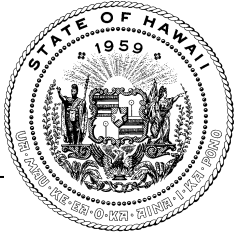
In consideration of
SB 1521
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard; Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards; and members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land, and Agriculture and Environment:

The Land Use Commission ("LUC") strongly supports SB 1521 which appropriates funds and requests that the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development ("OPSD") create an integrated land use plan for the use of the agricultural district in collaboration with other state agencies and the counties.

The LUC has long been concerned that competing land uses for critical and essential activities such as food sustainability, climate resilience, alternative energy production and housing have not been reconciled. It is critical that the LUC have some basis for understanding whether or not petitions concerning these critical land uses do not compromise one another. Undertaking this study will provide the LUC with the critical data it needs to protect the State's long-term interests and goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, February 10, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Providing **COMMENTS** on
SB 1521

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE LAND USE.

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments SB 1521 which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to create an integrated land use plan for the use of agricultural districts. The measure also requires HSEO, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Hawaii Tourism Authority to update various state functional plans and requires the counties to update their general plans.

HSEO agrees that there is a need to coordinate and plan for the many state and county level goals and stands ready to collaborate with state and county agencies, the private sector, and other stakeholders to support the effort. HRS 225P-5 (a) sets a target "...to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted within the State as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045." Per HRS 196-72 (d)(1), the Chief Energy Officer shall formulate, analyze, recommend, and implement specific policies, strategies, and plans, in coordination with public and private sector stakeholders, to cost-effectively and equitably achieve the State's energy goals. HSEO is currently engaging

with State agencies and stakeholders to discuss the issues raised from this measure and resources necessary to satisfy the requirements including those of HRS 226-55.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
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Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

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Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chairs Inouye & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante & Richards, and Members of the Senate Water and Land & Agriculture and Environment Committees,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB1521.**

An integrated land use plan for the Agricultural District of Hawaii is essential to protecting our agricultural lands and the food system as a whole in Hawaii.

The integrated land use plan has the potential of deterring unnecessary turnover of cultivated lands, which, in turn, protects Hawaii's farmers and promotes good land stewardship. Requiring the counties to update their general plans provides an extra layer of protection, ensuring that county decisions related to land use adhere to the state-wide plan.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Friday, February 10, 2023 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1521, Relating to Sustainable Land Use.

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 1521, which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to create an integrated land use plan for the use of the agricultural district; requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Hawai'i Tourism Authority to update various state functional plans; and, requires the counties to update their general plans.

Ulupono believes that this measure is sorely needed to address the many admirable, ambitious goals and mandates established in our state and counties. While our goals continue to chart us on a path toward greater sustainability and resiliency, Hawai'i is a landlocked state with finite resources. As such, strategic, data-based planning will be essential for our state and counties.

Through the passage of Act 189, SLH 2022, OPSD will be studying the soil classifications systems and the use of such systems across state agricultural lands, with a report expected to the legislature by the next legislative session. This study should support the greater land use effort described in this measure.

In October 2021, Ulupono decided to research the potential balance that can exist between our agricultural and energy goals, to double local food production by 2030 and reach a 100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045. In the white paper titled "SWITCHing the Paradigm," we discuss how using an electricity system planning model called SWITCH (Solar and Wind Energy Integrated with Transmission and Conventional Sources)

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

showcases how different land use scenarios can affect our overall land availability.¹ The analysis showed that there are scenarios where there is relatively low impact on customer energy costs even when protecting the most productive lands on O‘ahu.² The findings in this paper highlight the important decisions on land use policy that must be considered when determining which state or county goal or effort should receive preference, and also when a feasible balance can be struck.

We appreciate the Legislature’s efforts to support sound land use policy with data-based planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

¹ <https://ulupono.com/media/5eclolht/switching-the-paradigm-12-06-21.pdf>

² The electricity production cost for the unlimited use of Class B and Class C agricultural lands at 20% slope is 11.7 cents per kWh. The electricity production cost when restricting Class B lands to 1.8% and Class C lands to 1.1% at 20% slope is 12.3 cents per kWh.



**Testimony to
The Committees on Agriculture & Environment
And
Water & Land**

LATE

**Friday , February 10, 2023
1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

SB 1521

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and members of the committees,

Hawaii Gas **supports SB 1521**, which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to create an integrated land use plan for the use of the agricultural district; requires the Hawaii State Energy Office, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land & Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Hawaii Tourism Authority to update various state functional plans; appropriates moneys.

Established in 1904, Hawaii Gas serves over 70,000 customers on all islands through its pipeline and delivery services, all of whom depend on the company for sustainable, reliable, and affordable gas for water heating, cooking, drying, and other commercial and industrial applications. The company employs some 350 professionals, over 75% of whom are members of the Teamsters Union, and provides both regulated and unregulated utility operations.

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from low-carbon to zero-carbon to negative carbon emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Despite representing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii's atmosphere, we are working diligently to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing cost-effective, local, renewable energy projects.

Hawaii Gas is currently in the midst of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) regulatory docket, which is an action plan to determine how a utility will meet energy objectives and customer energy needs consistent with state energy policies and goals, while providing safe and reliable utility service at reasonable cost through the development of Resource Plans and Scenarios of possible futures that provide a broader long-term perspective. This process engages a full array of stakeholders, Through the process, it has become clear that an integral requirement to produce renewable gas and hydrogen is land for growing energy crops and renewable project siting. Often, the same land has the attributes required to advance the states equally important



priorities of increasing food production and affordable housing. The proposed integrated and comprehensive plan will assist the state as well as utilities' efforts in providing realistic solutions for these goals, the pathways to achieve them and possible multi-faceted use of lands. As a public utility we look forward to participating in these studies and being a key stakeholder because it will affect our ability and responsibility achieve low to zero-carbon emissions while providing reliable and affordable energy to the citizens of Hawaii.

We ask the committee to pass this bill.

SB-1521

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:12:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support