



# GOV. MSG. NO. 1136

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

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

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 28, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1925 HD2 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE  
PLANNING ACT.  
**ACT 036**

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024  
STATE OF HAWAII

**H.B. NO.** 1925  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 100, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 1978, established the Hawaii State Planning Act  
3 to guide future long-range development of the State. The Hawaii  
4 State Planning Act is comprised of thirteen functional plans  
5 focusing on a wide range of state objectives such as  
6 agriculture, education, housing, energy, tourism, and  
7 transportation. As a broad framework, the Hawaii state plan  
8 establishes standards and policies to guide activities,  
9 programs, and policies made by county and state agencies.

10           In 1983, the State initiated its first comprehensive review  
11 of the Hawaii state plan. The review, completed in 1985,  
12 resulted in the enactment of legislation to refine and address  
13 goals, policies, and objectives of part I and priority  
14 guidelines in part III of the Hawaii State Planning Act. Since  
15 1985, the State has experienced significant economic, physical,  
16 social, and technological changes that have enhanced and  
17 constrained opportunities for the State. Therefore, some



1 findings and recommendations made to the Hawaii state plan in  
2 the initial review may not reflect the State's current needs,  
3 goals, and long-range objectives for the twenty-first century.

4 In light of these circumstances, in 2018, the office of  
5 planning and sustainable development completed phase I of the  
6 comprehensive review of the Hawaii State Planning Act. The work  
7 completed in phase I yielded findings and recommendations that  
8 provide a foundation and scope of a recommended phase II update,  
9 including an approach to align current and emerging conditions  
10 and issues to enhance the effectiveness of planning, the needs  
11 of Hawaii's people, and the future trajectory of the State. As  
12 critical work on the phase I update has been completed, and due  
13 to the pressing challenges facing the State and its residents,  
14 the State is poised to now conduct phase II to update the Hawaii  
15 state plan, consistent with critical data, and to formulate  
16 long-term goals and opportunities for greater community  
17 engagement to provide a path toward future economic and  
18 sustainable success.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

20 (1) Establish the Hawaii State Planning Act phase II task  
21 force; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds.

2 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hawaii State  
3 Planning Act phase II task force to be placed within the office  
4 of planning and sustainable development for administrative  
5 purposes only.

6 (b) The task force shall:

7 (1) Create a two-year plan to examine the issues  
8 established in subsection (c), clarify and articulate  
9 findings, develop metrics and benchmarks to measure  
10 progress, and develop a final report that describes  
11 how the State is addressing the findings set forth in  
12 the phase I update completed in 2018;

13 (2) Incorporate into the plan how it will coordinate with  
14 other groups, agencies, and programs within and  
15 outside the State to achieve alignment of plans and  
16 their implementation;

17 (3) Incorporate into the plan how it will coordinate with  
18 the counties to achieve alignment of plans and their  
19 implementation; and



- 1 (4) Consider and incorporate into the plan equity  
2 concerns, including economic and accessibility impacts  
3 to low-income communities.
- 4 (c) The task force shall examine and report on:
- 5 (1) The findings of the original Hawaii State Planning  
6 Act, including any amendments necessary for relevancy;
- 7 (2) Re-establishment and formulation of a list of long-  
8 range objectives and focus areas for functional plans  
9 that place greater emphasis on plan formulation and  
10 program coordination to integrate state and county  
11 activities, including but not limited to an evaluation  
12 of the latest state and county comprehensive economic  
13 development strategies;
- 14 (3) Definitions in section 226-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
15 that may require amendments;
- 16 (4) Principles and values considered integral to the  
17 State, including tests for current relevancy and  
18 necessary amendments;
- 19 (5) Consistency of state goals established pursuant to  
20 section 226-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in relation to  
21 departments, counties, and the general public;



- 1           (6) The ability of the Hawaii state plan to provide a  
2           relevant, multi-disciplinary planning system and  
3           direction to encourage and facilitate cooperation  
4           among various entities, including between the State  
5           and the counties; and
- 6           (7) Objectives and policies established pursuant to  
7           sections 225-5 through 225-27, Hawaii Revised  
8           Statutes, that are out-of-date and require updates to  
9           conform with current and long-range goals, which may  
10          be achieved by:
- 11           (A) Convening sub-working groups to reconsider and  
12           update the objectives and policies;
- 13           (B) Simplifying and reducing the number of policies;
- 14           (C) Ensuring that functional plans have updated  
15           policies; and
- 16           (D) Reorienting functional plans to emphasize  
17           coordination between state agencies and the  
18           counties to ensure that functional plans focus on  
19           depth and specificity.
- 20          (d) The task force shall appoint a coordinator, who shall  
21          be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (e) The task force shall be composed of the following  
2 members:

3 (1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable  
4 development, or the director's designee, who shall  
5 serve as chairperson;

6 (2) The superintendent of education, or the  
7 superintendent's designee;

8 (3) The chairperson of the board of trustees of the office  
9 of Hawaiian affairs, or the chairperson's designee;

10 (4) A representative from the university of Hawaii  
11 economic research organization;

12 (5) Co-chairs of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
13 adaptation commission, or their designees;

14 (6) The planning director of each county, or their  
15 respective designees;

16 (7) The chairperson of each county economic development  
17 board, or their respective designees; and

18 (8) Other relevant stakeholders, to include non-profit,  
19 academia, business, and Native Hawaiian  
20 representatives, to be invited by the task force and  
21 its chairperson.



1 (f) The task force shall submit annual reports of the task  
2 force's progress, completed actions, and findings and  
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 the regular sessions of 2026 and 2027.

6 (g) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$225,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
10 administration costs of the Hawaii State Planning Act phase II  
11 task force established in section 2 of this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
13 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this  
14 Act.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
18 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) coordinator  
19 position, who shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised  
20 Statutes, to support the Hawaii State Planning Act phase II task  
21 force established in section 2 of this Act.

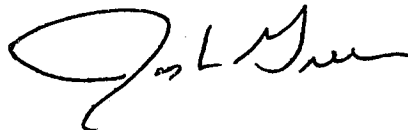




1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
2 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this  
3 Act.

4           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

APPROVED this 28th day of May , 2024



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 1925, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

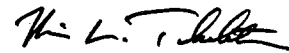
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

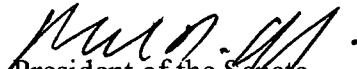



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: May 1, 2024  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate