



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 E. ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
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February 7, 2024

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

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Wednesday February 7, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 229 and Video Conference

In consideration of
SB 2204
RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Chair Inouye; Vice Chair Elefante; and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission (LUC) has the following comments on SB2204 which would authorize counties to initiate State Land Use District boundary amendments, without restriction on acreages, that conform to their General Plans. An application by the counties would only have to include the request and reasons, without the need for technical studies to support a district boundary amendment.

The proposed measure lacks a justification or intent section to describe how such a change would promote more efficient or effective land use regulation. The LUC has serious concerns that such provisions will create negative outcomes to statutory and constitutional public trust obligations of both the LUC and counties. The bill is unsupported by any empirical data, lacks clarity as to purpose, severely negatively impacts comprehensive land use planning, puts many other State initiatives such as food security and clean energy self-sufficiency at risk and increasing affordable housing.

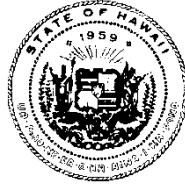
Current HRS section 205-4(h) requires the LUC to make any amendments to land use district boundaries only upon finding a clear preponderance of the evidence that such a change is not in violation of the Hawai'i State Plan, the LUC decision-making criteria which incorporates statutory and constitutional protections, the county's General Plans; and representations made by a petitioner in securing a boundary

change. The public interest in water, the environment, traditional and customary practices, cultural resources and public access rights must be taken into account in any decision-making on district boundary changes. The lack of required technical studies and potential level of land use changes would not allow the counties or LUC to identify possible impacts or formulate appropriate mitigation measures. This would lead to potential legal action by affected parties. That would not result in an efficient or effective regulatory policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

February 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of

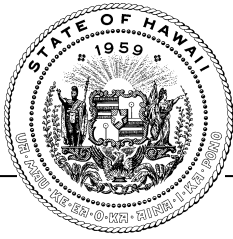
S.B. 2204

RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION.

HHFDC supports SB 2204, which would authorize a county to initiate a land use boundary amendment involving land areas greater than 15 acres to implement the county's general plan, with the application submitted to the Land Use Commission not requiring technical studies if the request conforms to the county general plan.

HHFDC supports efforts to streamline bottlenecks in the development process, which this bill does.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
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Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SENATE BILL 2204
RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers **comments** on SB2204, which would amend § 205-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to authorize the counties to initiate a State Land Use District Boundary Amendment (DBA) for land designated for Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation to implement the counties' general plan, provided that the amendments conform to the counties' adopted general plan. SB2204 would also provide that technical studies shall not be required if the request conforms to the county general plan.

OPSD appreciates the intent of allowing the counties to initiate DBAs for the purpose of implementing their general plan by amending the State Land Use Boundaries to conform to the counties adopted general plan. OPSD's **State Land Use Review of Districts** (January 2022) found that there was a need for more consistency between the State Urban District boundaries with county urban growth plans and that consideration should be given to approaches that would simply the redistricting of lands based on county plan designations and reconcile the differences between State Land Use District classifications and county general plans. This approach is appropriate in view of the comprehensiveness of county planning processes and the extensive community involvement required as part of county plan updates. Such redistricting could also lead to more expeditious production of housing.

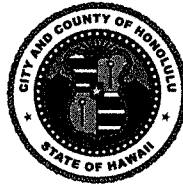
OPSD recommends that the measure clarify what studies might still be needed, e.g., archaeological, cultural, and biological surveys for reclassifications from Agricultural or Conservation to Urban. This will ensure that critical resources are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/dpp

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

JIRO A. SUMADA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Senate Bill 2204
Relating to Land Use Commission

Dear Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports, with proposed amendments**, Senate Bill No. 2204, which authorizes a county to initiate a land use boundary amendment to implement the county's general plan.

We support legislation aimed at creating a more efficient and streamlined system of approvals and ensuring consistency between state and county long-range land use planning functions. The key amendment in this Bill is the provision that technical studies shall not be required if the request conforms to the county general plan. The Department of Planning and Permitting would require such technical studies with the submittal of any subsequent zone change application or request for other discretionary land use approvals. Submitting technical studies at the time county level approvals are sought would help to ensure that documentation is current. Applicants would avoid the costly and timely process of updating such studies.

The proposed amendments include county's initiating a land use boundary amendment for lands in the conservation district. We suggest removing this language since the counties do not have jurisdiction over lands in this district. In addition, if a land use boundary amendment implements the county's general plan and applicable development plan, conformance is assumed and does not need to be stated. We suggest the following changes to the language:

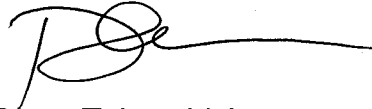
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Senate
Senate Bill No. 2204
February 7, 2024
Page 2

(b) Any county may initiate a land use boundary amendment for land designated for urban, rural, or agricultural, ~~or conservation~~ to implement the county's general plan and the applicable development plans; ~~provided that the amendments conform to the county's adopted general plan~~. The application shall be submitted to the commission by the county planning director and shall include the request and reasons; provided that technical studies shall not be required if the request conforms to the county general plan and applicable development plans.

Accordingly, we support Senate Bill No. 2204 with proposed amended language, and request that it move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Takeuchi Apuna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 5, 2024

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: S.B. 2204 RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

Aloha Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate the Committee on Water and Land,

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for S.B. 2204. The measure will create a simplified method for application requirements for county or OPSD-initiated boundary amendments over 15-acres, so long as it implements and conforms to adopted county general plans.

The Land Use Commission (LUC) was created in 1961 to address the need for a more comprehensive assessment of land reclassification in the state, and to ensure that adequate municipal facilities and infrastructure was available to support urbanization of land in each county. Despite the historical usefulness of the LUC, the current state-level process for reclassifying lands according to county general plans and community development plans has become excessively time-consuming and costly.

Counties, through the General Plan process, possess a nuanced and distinct understanding of residents' growth preferences within their respective jurisdictions. Amending HRS §205-4 will allow the counties to take the lead in aligning state land use classification with their respective General Plans. The LUC's revised role will involve reviewing proposed changes in consideration of broader state concerns. This adjustment, while still requiring LUC review and approval of land classification, would streamline the process, enhance government efficiency, and ultimately save taxpayer dollars. Further, this proposal opens up the possibility for a more comprehensive review of state boundaries initiated by the counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2204. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor / County of Hawai'i

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
Fax (808) 327-3563



County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

February 6, 2024

Testimony of
Zendo Kern
Director, County of Hawai'i, Department of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 2204
RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i Planning Department, I am expressing our support for **SB2204** which will create a simplified method for application requirements for county or OPSD-initiated boundary amendments over 15 acres, so long as it implements and conforms to adopted county general plans.

The Land Use Commission (LUC) was created in 1961 to address the need for a more comprehensive assessment of land reclassification in the state, and to ensure that adequate municipal facilities and infrastructure was available to support urbanization of land in each county. Despite the historical usefulness of the LUC, the current state-level process for reclassifying lands according to county general plans and community development plans has become excessively time-consuming and costly.

Counties, through the General Plan process, possess a nuanced and distinct understanding of residents' growth preferences within their respective jurisdictions. Amending HRS §205-4 will allow the counties to take the lead in aligning state land use classification with their respective General Plans. The LUC's revised role will involve reviewing proposed changes in consideration of broader state concerns. This adjustment, while still requiring LUC review and approval of land classification, would streamline the process, enhance government efficiency, and ultimately save taxpayer dollars. Further, this proposal opens up the possibility for a more comprehensive review of state boundaries initiated by the counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of Reiko Matsuyama Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
February 7, 2024; 1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of **Senate Bill 2204 Relating to the Land Use Commission**

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of the County of Kaua'i to express our **support** of Senate Bill 2204 which would authorize a county to initiate a land use boundary amendment to implement the county's general plan. We recognize that zoning reform, both at the State and county levels, is one of several strategies needed to mitigate the State's ongoing housing crisis.

SB 2204 supports the judicious and timely implementation of the General Plan. Updating the General Plan is a meticulous and time-consuming endeavor involving extensive analysis and public input. The General Plan is then further refined through more specific processes, such as community and town plans. Moreover, counties are required to regularly review and update the General Plan.

General Plans recommend areas for future growth which often require State Land Use District boundary amendments before County zoning entitlements can occur. This existing two-tier process is redundant and significantly lengthens the implementation timeline and adds considerable costs to the land development process, ultimately affecting housing affordability.

While we acknowledge the importance of the State Land Use Commission and its mission, we believe that a comparable review process can occur at the county level. With existing bodies such as the Planning Commission and the County Council, the County of Kaua'i is equipped to conduct thorough reviews and is better positioned to review and solicit public comment.

The County believes the draft bill will promote efficient urbanization and reduce housing costs, ensuring timely implementation of the County's land use policies outlined in the General Plan while upholding the principles of the Hawai'i State Planning Act.

In conclusion, the County of Kaua'i urges the committee to **support** the advancement of SB 2204. We believe that these proposed amendments are one step toward addressing Hawai'i's housing crisis.

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2204, Relating to the Land Use Commission

HEARING: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** Senate Bill 2204, which authorizes a county to initiate a land use boundary amendment to implement the county's general plan.

The Land Use Commission (LUC) is responsible for the classification of land parcels into urban, rural, agricultural and conservation districts. Additionally, the LUC acts on land use district boundary amendment petitions involving the reclassification of lands greater than 15 acres in agricultural, rural, and urban district areas, provided it is not in the conservation district or delineated as important agricultural lands. Currently, lands that are less than the 15 acres can be reclassified by the counties. Moreover, the county process involves opportunities for public input, which includes a presentation to the appropriate neighborhood board and public input at hearings before the appropriate county Planning Commission and County Council.

Hawaii has been struggling with the issue of affordable housing for decades. Challenges range from land and infrastructure costs, financing, regulatory challenges, and permitting. According to the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism's 2019 report on Housing Demand in Hawaii, the state needs up to 45,497, housing units to meet demand in Hawaii by 2030. Ultimately, we have a housing supply problem, and allowing the counties to initiate land use boundary amendments to implement the county's general plan may help address those challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this measure.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:32:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition OPPOSES SB2204. We cannot allow big contracting firms to bypass public scrutiny and government studies, EPA regulations to rush through their money-making projects unchecked.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:37:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Testifying for Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 2204

“Technical studies” are critical to land use. This measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from "technical studies" that are necessary to understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this bill.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 7, 2024

1:00 PM

Conference Room 229

In OPPOSITION to SB2204: Relating to the Land Use Commission

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **opposes SB2204**, which would authorize counties to initiate a land use district boundary amendments as contemplated in their general plans – something they are already allowed to do – but without conducting the due diligence studies that allow the Land Use Commission (LUC) to carefully and expeditiously balance the various public interests in such large-scale land use changes.

The LUC has long administered a critical, comprehensive process to identify and mitigate impacts to natural and cultural resources, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, food security, and other public interests that may be affected by the reclassification of conservation, rural, agricultural, and urban lands. Unlike existing county land use decisionmaking, the quasi-judicial nature of the LUC district boundary amendment process ensures that data and other information from experts, cultural practitioners, and other stakeholders are adequately considered and incorporated in district boundary amendment approvals. The LUC also possesses substantial institutional knowledge regarding how the public's interest in large-scale land use changes can be consistently protected. **One of the key reasons we have these safeguards in place is because of the extreme importance of land in Hawai'i, and the significant, myriad, and long-lasting if not irreversible impacts that land use changes can have on the public's interest.**

By excusing counties from conducting “technical studies” in county-initiated land use district boundary amendments, this measure would frustrate the very function of the LUC as a protector of the public interest. As outlined in Hawai'i Revised Statutes §205-17, the LUC's decisionmaking criteria involves assessing impacts to cultural, historical, and natural resources, Hawai'i's economy, and employment opportunities, to name a few. “Technical studies” currently allow the LUC to conduct such an assessment in an expeditious and thorough manner. For example, studies such as environmental assessments or impact statements provide a much-needed analysis of the details and impacts of proposed land use changes, information that is not necessarily included or assessed in county general plans. Such studies help the LUC and stakeholders, including cultural practitioners and those intimately familiar with affected areas, to identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more.

By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC as well as the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Finally, as illustrated in the below table, counties simply are not tasked with considering the many state concerns that the LUC is responsible for upholding. Accordingly, counties rely on the LUC to use its institutional knowledge and experience to address and balance broader public and community interests in their proposed land use district changes, and in exchange, are tasked with providing “technical studies” to assist the LUC with this work. Counties should not be excused from their due diligence responsibilities as proposed in this measure, particularly when such a broad range of public interests may be at risk of irreparable and avoidable harm.

	Land Use Commission	Counties
Must Uphold:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>State Concerns:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Maintain important natural and agricultural resources ◦ Maintain valued cultural, historical, and natural resources ◦ Employment opportunities and economic development ◦ Housing opportunities for low income groups • <u>The Public Trust:</u> All publicly held natural resources are held in trust by the state for the people.¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County ordinances • County concerns
Legally Required To:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess how proposed changes will affect Native Hawaiian rights and cultural practices and resources on the land. • Align with state goals, state plans, and county plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align with state goals, state plans, and county plans

For the reasons described above, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:23:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Q Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please hold this bill as it attacks the Land Use Commission's ability to safeguard the public interest, and the public trust



LATE

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: OPPOSING SB2204

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i, with members throughout the nation, and the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, respectfully **OPPOSE SB2204**.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide "technical studies" when doing so.

"Technical" studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species and their habitats, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with "technical studies" for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure, which would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **HOLD SB2204**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha nui,

*Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director*

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web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802
President: Colleen Heyer | Vice President: Sunshine Woodford | Secretary: Makaala Kaaumoana
Treasurer: Dendra Best | Directors: Puanani Anderson-Fung,
Bret Nainoa Mossman, Michael Nakachi, Mashuri Waite Ph,D
Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters
Operations and Events Manager: Leah Kocher
National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague
National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin
Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:44:47 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James McCully	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye,

I write in Strong Support for SB 2204 which would allow the counties to initiate a boundary ammendment for lands greater than 15 acres in order to implement their respective general plans.

Any statutory reform that reduces the current LUC reuirements which are cumbursome, burdensome, and expensive would be in the publics interests. The establishment of a county general plan requires years of research, hearings, and public votes by that county's council. Thus any specific provision of that plan has been thouroughly evaluated and debated prior to being incorporated into that general plan. The community interests are well protected while the decision as to how to allocate land use district designations on a specific basis are returned to a traditional and customary "Home Rule" process.

This bill is a benefit to the community and ultimately to the Land Use Commission itself. Please support SB 2204,

Mahalo,

Jim McCully

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:39:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I could support SB2204 if the general plan is not too outdated (within the past 20 years) and with the amendment that it also conforms with the area's community plan considering if that also is not too outdated either (within the past 20 years)

Mahalo for your commitment to our communities,

Tamara Paltin

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Carty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need information and data when making big decisions. So keep the research and kill this bill.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:24:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Technical studies are necessary for understanding the impacts of proposed land use boundary amendments. This bill creates a loophole for counties and developers to avoid this due dillgence. I urge you to reject this dangerous bill.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:25:23 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marilyn Mick and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:28:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Milena Kari	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Milena Kari and I OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:07:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristen Young, I am a Honolulu resident, and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:00:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michele Nihipali and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:08:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Environmental assessments and other studies are necessary to assess threats to health and safety of humans and other species and more. More, not less information is always helpful

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:16:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Shay Chan Hodges

Haiku, Maui

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:19:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Peter Wilson and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:22:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bo Breda and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:45:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The counties are already allowed to initiate land use changes consistent with their general plans, but waiving the need for technical studies specific to the purposes of proposed new land uses prevents the public from being able to assess the impacts on their lives and the cultural and natural environment. Even as we approach the rebuilding of Lahaina many of us are cautious about how that will occur. Now, more than ever, we need open, transparent decision-making in regards to those lands.

I oppose SB2204.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:30:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jennifer valentine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:57:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Harter and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. Nancy Harter

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:03:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:55:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:51:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bad idea. Drop it!

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:45:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mary True and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mary True, Pepekeo, 96783

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:48:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Barry and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:50:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

This measure would risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

I urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:09:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:40:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Susan
Bambara
Hawaii

Kurtistown,

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:32:35 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jun Shin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jun Shin and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species and their habitats, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure, which would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:04:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly oppose SB2204. This is a clear special interest bill that continues to fuel leverage on our lands that are not receiving permission for development due to the stellar position of the LUC and public mana'o the dates generations at times.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide "technical studies" when doing so.

By doing away with "technical studies" for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive, silence, deceive both the LUC and the public from the information they need to understand and address the ramifications of proposed new and intensive land uses implicating hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Do not pass this bill.

Aloha

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, HI

96725

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:26:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Please oppose SB2204. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, would deprive both the LUC and the public from the information they need to understand and address the ramifications of proposed new and intensive land uses.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans.

This measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands.

Mahalo

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:42:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in opposition to SB2204.

This bill inexplicably exempts the counties from doing “technical studies” when adjusting district boundary amendments aligned to their general plans, which is an issue to me. Technical studies, such as environmental assessments, provide very important details on the affects of the changes to occur. These studies help to protect the people, the health of the environment, and the resources for future generations. This needs to continue to occur throughout Hawaii. Thus, I oppose SB2204.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:59:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a 35 year resident of this state and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:39:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lela Kalama and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:36:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bianca Isaki and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species and their habitats, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure, which would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:41:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nathan Leo Braulick and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapi‘olani Blvd

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:54:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapali Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kapalii Keahi and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species and their habitats, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

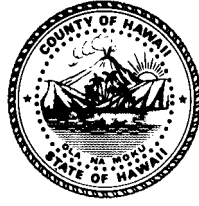
Please do not pass this measure, which would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui,

Kapali Keahi

Susan L.K. Lee Loy
Council Member
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 965-8912
Email:
sue.leeloy@Hawaii'icounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for SB 2204, relating to the Land Use Commission

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Mahalo for the opportunity to express support for SB 2204, which authorizes a county to initiate a land use boundary amendment to implement the county's general plan. This bill represents a crucial step towards streamlining the existing Land Use Commission (LUC) requirements, making the process more efficient and less burdensome, and ultimately serving the public's best interests.

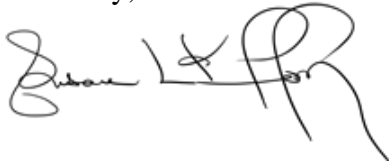
SB 2204 acknowledges the extensive efforts undertaken by each county in establishing and adopting a comprehensive general plan. These plans result from years of meticulous research, community hearings, and democratic decision-making by the County Council. Each provision within the general plan undergoes thorough evaluation and debate, ensuring community interests are well-protected. By granting counties the authority to initiate land use boundary amendments for lands over 15 acres, SB 2204 returns decision-making on specific land use designations to a traditional and customary "Home Rule" process.

The current requirements imposed by the LUC can be cumbersome, burdensome, and expensive. SB 2204 offers a sensible solution by aligning the land use decision-making process with the comprehensive and well-vetted county general plans. This realignment promotes greater efficiency and responsiveness to each community's unique needs and aspirations. Empowering counties to take the lead in initiating land use boundary amendments ensures that decisions are rooted in local knowledge and priorities.

Furthermore, this bill benefits the community and enhances the effectiveness of the Land Use Commission itself. By entrusting counties with the authority to initiate amendments, the LUC can focus on broader policy considerations and ensure its resources are efficiently utilized. SB 2204 represents a positive step towards a more responsive and community-driven land use planning process. The bill aligns with the principles of Home Rule, empowering counties to make decisions that directly impact their communities. The proposed amendments are sensible and serve the public interest by fostering a more efficient and locally-tailored land use planning framework.

Again, please support this bill, and thank you for your dedication to enhancing the effectiveness of our state's land use policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan L.K. Lee Loy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" at the end.

Susan "Sue" L.K. Lee Loy
Council Member, County of Hawai'i

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Jonathan Likeke Scheuer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members:

I respectfully oppose this bill. It is both unnecessary and its implementation would not survive legal challenge because it does not offer protections for Constitutionally guaranteed rights.

My position is informed in part from having had the honor of serving on the Land Use Commission for eight years, four years as Chair. During that period we approved thousands of new units of housing, by amending the land use district and converting agricultural lands into the urban district. We also granted numerous landowners requests to amend previous approvals to allow them to use their urban district lands for much-needed solar facilities, among many other actions.

If the goal of this measure is to provide housing, it is unnecessary. In all of the counties, there are significant lands already in the urban district which are not being developed. There are other more meaningful barriers to housing production, particularly the high cost of infrastructure. This bill will not aid in addressing those more critical problems.

If the goal of this measure is to empower the counties to submit district boundary amendment requests, it also appears to be unnecessary. There is no obvious legal barrier to them doing that already.

However, if the goal of the measure is to allow the counties to avoid environmental review and rely on the quasi-legislative process used to adopt urban growth boundaries in seeking to urbanize lands, the measure is fatally flawed. Constitutionally protected rights, including the right to exercise traditional and customary native Hawaiian practices can only be diminished in urbanization under the quasi-judicial process used by the Land Use Commission. This requires substantive environmental review document documents and other technical studies to be used in its deliberations. If this bill were passed as worded and a county tried to use this provision, their request would not survive legal challenge.

It is important also to note, while I served pn the Land Use Commission we did reject approval of an environmental impact statement related to a proposed district boundary amendment on Maui, in the fire-prone area of Olowalu. The draft environmental disclosure document failed to recognize numerous significant adverse impacts on the environment. The project proposer never appealed our decision, indicating the accuracy of our adjudication. Critically, that land was

already in the urban growth boundary for the county. If the language proposed in this bill had been in place, it would have allowed that land to proceed through the amendment process with unknown significant adverse impacts to critical state resources.

For these reasons, I request you hold this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Likeke Scheuer

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins




Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 6, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2204, RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION**

I support this measure to allow counties to submit State District Boundary Amendments to bring parcels in line with the counties' general plans.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Despite the Land Use Commission's historical usefulness, the current State-level process for reclassifying lands according to county general plans and community-development plans has become time consuming and costly.
2. Each county's general plan possesses a nuanced and distinct understanding of residents' preferences on growth and other long-term policies.
3. This measure would streamline the land-classification-review process, enhance government efficiency, and ultimately save taxpayer money.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:23:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Nu?uhiwa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for SB2204

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Momi Nuuhiwa and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Momi Nuuhiwa

Hilo

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:01:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Kamemoto	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I agree with the general idea behind this proposed amendment, which appears to be aiding the alignment of the state’s land use plans (through LUO) with the county general plans, I am seriously concerned with the possible ramifications of the “provided that technical studies shall not be required if the request conforms to the county general plan” clause, especially if these technical studies involve environmental assessments and other potential impact studies. The one case where this would be okay is if the county already did comprehensive equivalent technical studies to reach their general plan, however I’m not sure if that’s a requirement on the county side.

I’d suggest maybe adding a clause: “if the request conforms to the county general plan and equivalent studies were conducted in preparation of the county general plan.” This would reduce any duplication of effort that might currently be occurring between studies that a county does to update their general plans and what the LUO is currently required to do.

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:07:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

LATE

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:34:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssandra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Promote public health! Counties should be required to provide potential impacts to human health and safety, native habitat, cultural resources, local farms, watershed integrity, and more when converting conservation, agricultural, and rural lands to urban uses

LATE

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:08:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Diane Ware and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

99-7815 Kapoha Place Volcano HI 96785

LATE

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:31:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I respectfully OPPOSE SB2204.

This measure authorizes counties to initiate district boundary amendments consistent with their general plans - something they are already allowed to do - but inexplicably exempts them from having to provide “technical studies” when doing so.

“Technical” studies, such as environmental assessments, provide a much-needed analysis of the details of proposed land use changes, details that are not included or assessed in county general plans. These studies can identify and minimize potential threats and impacts to human health and safety, native and endangered species, cultural and subsistence resources and practices, access trails for hunting and hiking, impacts to adjacent watersheds and farms, and more. By doing away with “technical studies” for county-initiated land use district changes, this measure would deprive both the LUC and the public from understanding and addressing the ramifications of proposals involving the urbanization of hundreds if not thousands of rural, agricultural, or even conservation lands at a time.

Please do not pass this measure that would only risk imposing significant and unnecessary burdens on our communities, our children, and future generations, by excusing counties from their due diligence duties.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD SB2204. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Breanne Fong

LATE

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 5:41:40 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE sb2204 . Especially after the tragic fires & horrific loss of life on Maui last August, it should be abundantly clear to all that Hawaii Nei need a robust planning "technical Studies" process . These studies will save time, money, cultural & natural resources in the long run.

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

LATE

SB-2204

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:02:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!