



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Written Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Thursday, February 8, 2024, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

in consideration of
HB 1925
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT.

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1925 which establishes the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and makes an appropriation.

OPSD agrees that HRS Chapter 226, the Hawaii State Planning Act, should be updated to reflect new conditions in Hawaii. In 2018, OP undertook a Phase I review of Ch. 226 and found outdated goals and objectives. Since then, the Legislature has added important objectives supporting climate change adaptation and sustainability. However, a more comprehensive update would benefit future planning for a rapidly changing world. Hawaii is geographically isolated, but not isolated from global climate and economic impacts.

OPSD requires an appropriation and one exempt (1) FTE in order to undertake this project, so long as it does not replace Administration budget priorities. A task force established by law is subject to Sunshine Law and substantial public input is needed to refine and validate proposals for amendments to Ch. 226.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 430

HOUSE BILL NO. 1925
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1925 that establishes a 12-member (at minimum) Task Force to update the Hawaii State Planning Act (Chapter 226) pursuant to the 2018 Phase I update completed in 2018. The Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) is to serve as chair of the Task Force and the Task Force is to be placed within OPSD. The Department of Agriculture offers a comment.

The Department believes that the proposed update to the Hawaii State Plan is critically needed and should be accomplished using the guidance described in the Hawaii State Plan Update, Phase I (pages 29 to 31). Otherwise, we defer to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



HB1925_WAL_02-08-24_WAL,FIN_Comments



Housing Hawai'i's Future
PO Box 3043
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

February 8, 2024

TO: Chair Ichiyama and members of the Hawai'i State House Housing and Water and Land Committee
RE: HB 1925 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Sterling Higa, and I serve as executive director of Housing Hawai'i's Future, a nonprofit creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

We support HB 1925, establishing a task force to update the Hawai'i State Planning Act.

It's the task of each generation to take responsibility for the future of Hawai'i.

This means planning.

After all, failing to plan is planning to fail.

The Hawai'i State Planning Act was passed nearly 50 years ago.

In that time, the internet was invented, the Cold War ended, and more than half of the current population of Hawai'i was born.¹

The State Planning Act is overdue for a comprehensive reevaluation and for amendments as necessary.

It's time for future leaders to have a say in planning for their future!

Please support HB 1925.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sterling Higa".

Sterling Higa
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future
sterling@hawaiisfuture.org
+1 (808) 782-7868

¹ An simplified way of thinking of our population is half >40 and half <40.



holomua

COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Meli James, *Board Chair*
Micah Kāne
Brandon Kurisu
Mike Mohr
Brad Nicolai
Mike Pietsch

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Josh Feldman
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Josh Wisch
President & Executive Director

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Committee: House Committee on Water and Land
Bill Number: HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act
Hearing Date and Time: February 8, 2024 at 9:00am (Room 430)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act. The purpose of HB 1925 is to establish the Hawai'i State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and to provide one full-time equivalent (FTE) position to provide support for the task force.

The State (and rest of world) are facing numerous complex, interlocking challenges that are increasing in speed and scale. These challenges require solutions and approaches that are cross-sector and collaborative. This proposal aims to use the opportunity to update and modernize the State Planning Act (HRS 226) to address these complex challenges. It proposes the establishment of a task force representing government, for-profit, nonprofit, and labor sectors to begin the Phase II update that was referenced in the 2018 phase I update of the State Planning Act. This second phase will refine and guide the implementation of recommendations for the Act's update, refreshing the State Plan as a key part of the solution to these challenges.

The State Plan, a vital policy document, sets standards and policies guiding local and State agencies. It is important to everyone in Hawai'i. A long-range comprehensive plan, it serves as a guide for future development, identifies the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State and provides a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and other resources. Additionally, it assists in resource allocation, coordinates federal, State, and county plans, and integrates major state and county activities.

Phase I of the 2018 comprehensive update is complete. But with the challenges facing the state and its residents, which require close collaboration and planning between all sectors in the state, now is an opportune time to conduct Phase II. This presents the opportunity to build on the work done in 2018, involve more voices from the community in the process to update and simplify the Hawai'i State Plan, and through that process create alignment on how to move our state and its economy successfully and sustainably into the future.

Sincerely,

Josh Wisch
President & Executive Director



Testimony in Support of HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing in support of HB 1925, the purpose of which is to establish the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. This cross-sector task force, building on past work in 2018, will update and modernize the State Planning Act to create alignment on moving our State and our economy successfully and sustainably into the future.

aio is a locally owned company with holdings across a broad range of industries. Our companies are purpose-driven and firmly rooted in local values. At aio, Hawaii is at our core, and through our products and services, we work hard to make Hawaii a better place for future generations.

The Hawaii State Plan is important to everyone in Hawaii. It serves as a guide for future development, identifies the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State and provides a basis for determining strategies to allocate our limited resources. It has been decades since The Act has truly been updated.

With the 2018 Phase I complete, Phase II presents an opportunity for community involvement and alignment on moving Hawaii's economy sustainably forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Brandon Kurisu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandon Kurisu
aio Family of Companies





February 8, 2024

Committee: House Committee on Water and Land
Bill Number: HB 1925, Relating to the State Planning Act
Hearing Date and Time: February 8, 2024
Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in Support

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act, which aims to set up the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. This collaborative task force, drawing from previous efforts in 2018, will capitalize on the act's update to foster consensus on guiding our state and its economy toward a successful and sustainable future.

HPM Building Supply is a 100% employee-owned company, with over 600 employees serving Hawaii's home improvement market and building industry for over 100 years since 1921. With 18 locations across Hawaii and Washington State, HPM offers various services and products, including retail stores, building supply and lumber yards, home design centers, drafting and design services, and manufacturing facilities. HPM is dedicated to enhancing homes, improving lives, and transforming communities one home at a time.

The Hawaii State Plan holds significance for all residents of Hawaii. As a long-term comprehensive strategy, it serves as a roadmap for future development, outlining goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. Moreover, it serves as a crucial tool for prioritizing and allocating scarce resources such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and others. Despite its importance, the plan has not undergone significant updates for decades. Establishing a cross-sector task force to modernize it is a commendable step. With Phase I completed in 2018, Phase II provides an opportunity for community engagement and consensus-building to propel Hawaii's economy sustainably into the future.

This bill also aligns with HPM's values of Heart, Character, and Growth. By bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to plan a path forward together, we show that we care about the future generations and how we shape it. Our company's value of Heart is caring for one another as a community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1925. I strongly encourage your support and passage of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dennis Lin
Community Relations Administrator



Statement of
Meli James
Cofounder
Mana Up

HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha,

We write in support of HB 1925, which creates the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. This collaborative task force, building on past initiatives from 2018, will use the opportunity to update the State Planning Act to steer our state and its economy towards prosperity and sustainability.

Mana Up is a statewide initiative that helps entrepreneurs in Hawai'i to grow their small businesses, providing them with resources and tools to scale globally. As these entrepreneurs continue to grow, they also help contribute to expanding our local economy. Through its accelerator designed for Hawai'i's rising entrepreneurs, Mana Up aims to sustain our local economy through economic diversification, local job creation, community giveback, investment, and a regenerative culture of entrepreneurship – providing a better future for generations to come here in Hawai'i.

The Hawaii State Plan holds immense importance for all residents of Hawaii. Serving as a comprehensive long-term strategy, it serves as a guide for future development by outlining goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. Moreover, it serves as a crucial mechanism for prioritizing and allocating scarce resources such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and others. Despite its significance, the plan has remained largely unchanged for decades. The establishment of a cross-sector task force to modernize it is a smart move. With Phase I completed in 2018, Phase II offers an opportunity for community engagement and consensus-building to propel Hawaii's economy sustainably into the future.

Sincerely,



Meli James
Cofounder, Mana Up



TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII

February 8, 2024

Testimony in support of HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

We support HB 1925, which seeks to establish the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. This collaborative task force, drawing from prior efforts in 2018, will use the opportunity to update the State Planning Act to guide our state and its economy toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

Title Guaranty of Hawai'i is the oldest and largest title company in the state. We have been owned and operated by a kama'aina family since 1896 and we are proud to employ over 250 residents who work in our branches across the state. Being a longtime employer of so many people in Hawai'i, we know how important it is to bring together different viewpoints across sectors and branches of government to chart a path forward for everyone in our state.

The Hawaii State Plan is significant to all residents of Hawaii. Serving as a long-term comprehensive strategy, it acts as a roadmap for future development, delineating goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. Additionally, it functions as a vital tool for prioritizing and allocating limited resources like public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and others. Despite its importance, the plan has not seen significant updates for decades. Establishing a cross-sector task force to modernize is a good idea.

With Phase I concluded in 2018, Phase II presents an opportunity for community engagement and consensus-building to advance Hawaii's economy sustainably into the future.

Sincerely,

Mike B. Pietsch
President and Chief Operating Officer
Title Guaranty of Hawai'i



Title and Escrow is our business. Hawaii is our home.





**Testimony to
The House Committee on Water & Land
February 8, 2024
9:00 AM
Conference Room 430 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

HB 1925, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

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

We support HB 1925, which seeks to establish the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. This collaborative task force, drawing from prior efforts in 2018, will use the opportunity to update the State Planning Act to guide our state and its economy toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

Since 1904, Hawaii Gas has been a pioneer in the gas industry. Hawaii Gas is again at the leading edge of our industry given our integration of both renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen into our fuel supply mix and distributing it through our utility pipeline system. Hawaii Gas plays a vital role in Hawaii's energy portfolio by providing clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy to over 70,000 customers on all islands, all of whom depend on the company for water heating, cooking, drying, and other commercial and industrial applications. Hawaii Gas continues to look towards new, innovative, and economic ways to incorporate renewable energy sources while also reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

As an employer with offices and operations on every island in the state, we understand the importance of good planning. And the Hawaii State Plan is a vital policy document that is important all residents of Hawaii. Serving as a comprehensive long-term strategy, it serves as a guide for future development by outlining goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. Additionally, it functions as a critical tool for prioritizing and allocating limited resources such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and others. Despite its significance, the plan has remained largely unchanged for decades. Establishing a cross-sector task force to modernize now it is a prudent step.

With Phase I concluded in 2018, Phase II offers an opportunity for community engagement and consensus-building to propel Hawaii's economy sustainably into the future. We believe this bill is a smart approach to state planning and we are pleased to support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.