

# STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Monday, February 10, 2025, 1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
in consideration of  
**SB 1335**  
**RELATING TO INTEGRATED LAND USE.**

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** SB 1335, which mandates an integrated land use study for Hawai'i's agricultural districts to address the urgent challenges of competing land uses.

With only 4 million acres of total land, Hawai'i faces immense pressure as affordable housing, renewable energy, and agriculture compete for limited space within the 1.9 million acres of Hawai'i's Agricultural District. Additionally, the State of Hawai'i has statutorily mandated the following 22 sustainability, climate, and affordable housing targets:

Target Year	Statutory Mandate	Legal Reference
2022	<b>Coal Power Prohibition</b> – Ends all coal burning in the state.	HRS §342B-36
2025	<b>Farm-to-State Target</b> – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH must purchase <b>10%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8
2026	<b>Affordable Rental Housing Target</b> – The state must develop or facilitate <b>22,500 affordable rental housing units</b> for occupancy between 2017-2026.	Act 127, SLH 2016
2030	<b>Farm-to-State Target</b> – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH must purchase <b>18%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8
2030	<b>Farm-to-School Target</b> – <b>30%</b> of food served in public schools must be locally sourced	HRS §302A-405.6
2030	<b>Doubling Local Food Target</b> – <b>Double local food production</b> and increase local food exports.	Act 151, SLH 2019
2030	<b>Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards (EEPS) Target</b> – <b>Reduction of 4,300 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity use statewide.</b>	HRS §269-96
2030	<b>Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Target</b> – <b>40%</b> of electricity generation must come from renewable sources	HRS §269-92
2030	<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Limit</b> – Reduce statewide GHG emissions to <b>50% below 2005 levels.</b>	HRS §225P-5 (Act 238, SLH 2022)

<b>2030</b>	<b>State Fleet ZEV Transition – All light-duty passenger vehicles</b> in the state fleet must be zero-emission.	Act 74, SLH 2021 (HRS § 225P-7, 264-20.7, and §196-9(c)(11))
<b>2035</b>	<b>DOE Net-Zero Energy Target – All</b> Public schools must generate as much renewable energy as they consume.	HRS §302A-1510
<b>2035</b>	<b>UH Net-Zero Energy Target – All</b> University of Hawai'i campuses must generate as much renewable energy as they consume	HRS §304A-119
<b>2035</b>	<b>State Fleet ZEV Transition – All light-duty motor vehicles</b> in the state fleet must be zero-emission vehicles.	Act 74, SLH 2021 (HRS § 225P-7, 264-20.7, and §196-9(c)(11))
<b>2035</b>	<b>Farm-to-State Target – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH</b> must purchase <b>26%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8
<b>2040</b>	<b>Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Target – 70%</b> of electricity generation must come from renewable sources.	HRS §269-92
<b>2040</b>	<b>Farm-to-State Target – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH</b> must purchase <b>34%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8
<b>2045</b>	<b>Reclaimed Water in State and County Facilities – 100%</b> use of reclaimed water except for potable/drinkable uses.	HRS §174C-31(g)(6)
<b>2045</b>	<b>Zero Emissions Clean Economy Target –</b> The state must sequester more carbon than it emits.	HRS §225P-5
<b>2045</b>	<b>Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Target – 100%</b> of electricity generation must come from renewable sources.	HRS §269-92
<b>2045</b>	<b>Farm-to-State Target – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH</b> must purchase <b>42%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8
<b>2050</b>	<b>Statewide Cesspool Conversion – All</b> cesspools must be upgraded, converted, or connected to sewage systems.	HRS §342D-72
<b>2050</b>	<b>Farm-to-State Target – DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH</b> must purchase <b>50%</b> of total food from local agricultural/processed food sources.	HRS §27-8

Without strategic planning, the State risks not fulfilling these multiple climate, sustainability, and affordable housing mandates. A comprehensive, data-driven study is critical to assess current land use, identify conflicts, and develop balanced solutions to ensure land use planning reflects Hawai'i's statutory and policy commitments.

Currently, DBEDT and OPSD are conducting a pilot study for the island of O'ahu, with the support of ADC, HSEO, HHFDC, and CTAHR's available data, but additional staffing and resources to OPSD are needed to expand this effort in a more timely manner, statewide.

Passing SB 1335 will provide essential staff and financial support to continue this critical work, provided there are no adverse impacts on Administration priorities..

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1335**  
**RELATING TO INTEGRATED LAND USE.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 1335 that requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct an Integrated Land Use Study, the purpose of which is to develop land use data that can be used for planning and decision making for competing uses of lands within agricultural districts. The Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments and a recommendation.

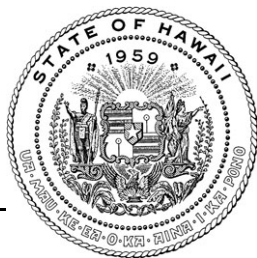
The Department is concerned how future planning and decision making based on the proposed Study will impact agricultural producers and agricultural land and water resources throughout the State.

The Study is to incorporate the recommendations of plans, studies, and statutes for high-profile uses and activities (Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, state land use review of district, Hawaii sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report, State's climate, sustainability, and housing targets, and renewable energy goals). (page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 4)



The Department recommends the Study incorporate current agricultural goals and the long-standing statutory framework to protect, conserve, and promote the use of agricultural lands for agricultural production (Important Agricultural Lands, 30 percent increased local food production by 2030, Chapter 205, etc.). We believe it is the State's priority to protect and promote a healthy agricultural land economy where those who wish to continue existing farm businesses or start agricultural operations are able to successfully compete for agricultural lands against non-agricultural uses and activities. As a participant in the Study, the Department will be alert to recommendations that unfairly compromise the protection given to agricultural lands and water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Monday, February 10, 2025  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #229

In consideration of  
**SB 1335**  
**RELATING TO INTEGRATED LAND USE**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB 1335 that requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct an integrated land use study for the use of lands within the agricultural districts.

Hawai'i's 4 million acres are under immense pressure as affordable housing, renewable energy, and agriculture compete for space. With 22 statutorily mandated sustainability, climate, and housing goals, strategic planning is essential to prevent conflicts and ensure responsible land use. A comprehensive, data-driven study is critical to assess current land use, address competing demands, and align development with Hawai'i's statutory commitments.

DBEDT is leading an integrated land use pilot study on O'ahu, supported by OPSD, HSEO, ADC, HHFDC, and CTAHR. However, with only one employee, the OPSD Statewide Sustainability Branch requires additional staff and resources to ensure timely progress.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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February 10, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1335**  
RELATING TO INTEGRATED LAND USE

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1335**, which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct an integrated land use study for agricultural districts and submit interim and final reports to the Legislature and the Land Use Commission. A comprehensive and data-driven approach to land use planning is necessary to balance competing priorities while ensuring that agriculture remains a viable and protected industry in Hawai'i.

Agricultural lands have long been subject to increasing pressures from non-agricultural uses, including affordable housing, renewable energy projects, and waste management facilities. While we recognize the need for these developments, it is essential that they do not come at the expense of productive agricultural lands. A well-structured land use study can provide critical insights into how Hawai'i can meet its sustainability and economic development goals without undermining local food production.

Hawai'i's agricultural landscape has evolved beyond traditional soil classification as the sole factor in determining land suitability for farming. Modern agricultural practices, including greenhouses, hydroponics, aquaculture, and aquaponics, allow for successful production across all land classifications (A, B, C, D, E). Some of the state's most productive floriculture and hydroponic operations are thriving on C, D, and E lands. Factors such as rainfall patterns, temperature variations, wind conditions, and humidity levels all play a significant role in determining the viability of different crops in a given area. In many cases, soil type and terrain are not the primary determinants of whether

farming can succeed. Any land use study must account for these advancements and environmental considerations when evaluating the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

We support SB 1335's intent to collect and analyze data-driven insights to ensure informed decision-making regarding land use planning. However, we urge that the study:

- Clearly define and prioritize the protection of productive agricultural lands to prevent further encroachment from non-agricultural developments.
- Include direct input from the agricultural community to ensure the study reflects the realities and needs of farmers and ranchers.
- Ensure that agricultural lands designated for agriculture production are not compromised for short-term development needs.
- Utilize the Land Use Commission's expertise in integrating the findings into future land use policies.

Preserving and supporting agriculture is vital for Hawai'i's food security, economic sustainability, and cultural heritage. We encourage the committee to advance SB 1335 with careful consideration for maintaining a strong agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**LATE**

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Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

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

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB1335.**

SB1335 represents a critical opportunity to align land use planning with Hawai'i's agricultural sustainability and food security goals. By directing the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to conduct an integrated land use study for agricultural districts, this measure can help ensure that state and county policies support regenerative agriculture, protect prime farmland, and balance competing land uses without undermining local food production. As Hawai'i continues working toward its goals of doubling food production and reducing reliance on imports, comprehensive data and strategic planning are essential to preserving agricultural lands for farming while integrating climate adaptation and sustainability objectives.

To maximize the effectiveness of this study, it is essential that farmers and agricultural organizations be involved in the data collection and planning process. The bill should support ground-truthing of soil classifications and input from farmers actively working the land, ensuring that the study's findings translate into policies that reflect the realities of farming in Hawai'i. Additionally, the study's recommendations could be used to update the State Agricultural Functional Plan and inform county general plans, ensuring that state and local policies actively support food production and sustainable agriculture. With these refinements, SB1335 can serve as a powerful tool for advancing Hawai'i's commitment to a resilient, farmer-focused land use strategy that safeguards agricultural lands for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union