

ACT 146

H.B. NO. 1558

A Bill for an Act Relating to Sustainability.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that not only is climate change real, but it is the overriding challenge of the twenty-first century and one of the pri-

ority issues of the legislature. Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to the State's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

The legislature recognized in Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, that many quality-of-life issues, including water quality, air quality, land use, energy, and ocean resources, are important to the people of Hawaii and should be the focus for planning Hawaii's future and created the Hawaii 2050 sustainability task force and Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan to coordinate the actions needed to sustain a growing and vibrant economy, while maintaining a high quality of life for all residents and visitors.

The legislature recognized in Act 181, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, that the creation of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan comes as the State faces a growing number of pressing issues, including the steady deterioration of public infrastructure, the lack of affordable housing, a continued reliance on a service-based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii in a volatile global energy market, possible interruptions in travel and to critical food supplies, threats to fragile island ecosystems, ever-increasing numbers of residents, and an increasing number of visitors over the long-term. These issues all raise questions about the long-term limits of growth in the State and highlight the need to begin planning and acting to assure Hawaii's sustainable future.

A ten-year measurement update of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan (2008-2017) was published in March 2018 by the office of the auditor with the assistance of the office of planning, which evaluated the metrics and indicators established in the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. The measurement update identified the need for funding to perform a formal ten-year update of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii sustainability efforts by incorporating sustainability coordination and planning into the duties and responsibilities of the office of planning.

SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§226- Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. (a) The Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan shall serve as the State's climate and sustainability action plan to determine future actions guiding the coordination and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability and climate adaptation goals, principles, and policies, and to define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines using sections 226-3 to 226-27 and 226-103 to 226-109, and chapter 225P, as guiding principles.

(b) The office of planning shall update the sustainability plan to determine future actions guiding the coordination and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability and climate adaptation goals, principles, and policies, and to define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines using sections 226-3 to 226-27 and 226-103 to 226-109, and chapter 225P, as guiding principles.

(c) The office of planning shall submit the sustainability plan updated pursuant to subsection (b) to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021 and every tenth regular session thereafter.”

SECTION 3. Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, as amended by Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, is amended by amending section 4 to read as follows:

“SECTION 4. Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. (a) After receipt of the task force’s report, the office of the auditor shall prepare the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. The plan shall be prepared to define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines using sections 226-3 to 226-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as guiding principles. The auditor shall seek input from all state departments. The auditor shall also solicit public views and concerns in preparation of the plan and shall incorporate all or a portion of the recommendations reported by the Hawaii 2050 task force.

The plan shall serve as a guideline for funding and implementation by state and county agencies. The office of planning shall assist the auditor in reviewing the plan.

(b) The auditor shall submit the sustainability plan to the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 2008.

~~[(c) The auditor, with the assistance of the office of planning, shall update the plan every ten years and report to the legislature.]”~~

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for updating the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of planning for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Approved June 26, 2019.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.