



University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Sustainability Policy – Adopted January 2014

** This language was agreed upon by the UH BoR at their January 2014 meeting and builds on the policy development work completed by over 200 attendees at the 1st Annual Hawai'i Sustainability in Higher Education Summit in April 2013. This text is now part of the Board of Regents Chapter Four on Planning. The first paragraph below serves as additional text in the Mission Statement of UH. Part (4) includes implementation details. Please note that bolded text is our emphasis and not part of the official policy.*

Within its unique geographical location, the University will serve as a leader in how it stewards the resources of the islands and the world for the benefit of all. The University will be a global leader in the integration of sustainability throughout its teaching, research, operations and public service. The University recognizes that an important knowledge base in sustainable island systems resides in the indigenous people of Hawaii and all those for whom Hawaii is home. The University commits to consult with local cultural practitioners and sustainability experts on best practices in sustainable resource allocation and use for the well-being of our communities, our state, and the world. Critical resources include energy, food, water, land and sea as they are integrated with the relationships of family, culture, community, justice and economy in the present and future.

(4) The University is committed to social, cultural, environmental, and economic sustainability in operations; education, research, and service; planning, administration, and engagement; and cultural and community connections. The President, working with the Chancellors, ensures the commitment to sustainability is fulfilled by:

(a) establishing a Presidential Sustainability Policy that sets ambitious sustainability goals such that the University will achieve **carbon neutrality, zero waste, and local food self-sufficiency**;

(b) providing **system-wide executive support and coordination** in the development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of programs and services that encourage sustainability throughout the University and each of its campuses;

(c) ensuring that the **University meets or exceeds all statewide policies**, targets, and goals relevant to sustainability;

(d) establishing system-wide sustainability priorities for **operations; education, research, and service; planning, administration, and engagement; and cultural and community connections**;

(e) establishing system-wide and, where appropriate, campus-specific **metrics and targets** for improved efficiency and reduced resource waste for buildings, climate, dining, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water;

(f) developing **mechanisms to track and re-invest savings** from sustainability initiatives that further increase efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve sustainability; and

(g) reporting on accomplishments and challenges in implementing sustainable practices at the University.

The President is delegated authority to develop specific processes that carry out the intent of this Board policy. The President or his/her designee shall report to the Board annually on progress in carrying out the University's commitment to sustainability.