



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
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by
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SB 283 SD1 Relating to Sustainability

Chairs McKelvey and Hanohano, and honorable members of the House Committees on Economic Revitalization & Business and on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 283, SD1, relating to sustainability.

I am the director of the Social Sciences Public Policy Center ("Center") at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and, with Dr. Sharon Moriwaki, we worked on updating the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan ("H2050 Plan") as directed by the legislature. As you recall, the state's H2050 Task Force developed the H2050 Plan that identified crucial areas for future planning to revitalize the state's economy, protect the environment, and preserve the culture and quality of life for future generations. This plan set in place an important long- term planning process for Hawai'i's future.

In 2008, the legislature adopted Act 225 that requested the Center to review the plan, consult with citizens and leaders from across the state to prioritize the goals and objectives in the Plan, and develop benchmarks for each of the major goals. The Center completed its work and submitted its findings to the Legislature in January of last year (see the report on our website, www.publicpolicycenter.hawaii.edu). Briefly, the report covered the following:

- ❖ Data gathered from email surveys and face to- face cross-sector meetings in each county, with representation from 10 major sectors of our community-- business, labor, the environment, kanaka maoli, youth, the military, the health sector, the non-profit sector, education and government (state and county level);
- ❖ Developed a sustainability resource guide; and
- ❖ Researched data sources and benchmarks.

The report proposed five major recommendations based on the voices of the community:

- ❖ **Incorporate the H2050 Plan definition of sustainability and its goals as a new section in Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.**
- ❖ **Develop and implement policies based on common themes heard across the state and counties in the cross sector dialogs.**
- ❖ **Support the continuing public-private collaborations, community discussions, activities, and work on sustainability efforts.**
- ❖ **Adopt measures of accountability, including data and data sources, indicators and benchmarks.**
- ❖ **Develop a sustainability coordinating entity to carry forward the H2050 Plan.**

S.B. 283, SD1 addresses the first recommendation. It provides for a sustainability policy to be incorporated in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It puts into law the definition of "sustainability" that was adopted by the many thousands of citizens who provided input in the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, i.e., "a Hawai'i that respects the culture, character, beauty, and history of the State's island communities, strikes a balance between economic, social and community, and environmental priorities; and meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." And further it provides seven guiding principles and five goals to achieve a sustainable Hawai'i by 2050.

We believe it is extremely important to support the sustainability efforts throughout the states by incorporating the sustainability policy into the Hawai'i State Plan as proposed in S.B.283, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions.