



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Carl Bonham, Executive Director
University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization

And

Denise Konan, Dean
College of Social Sciences

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1925 HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT

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

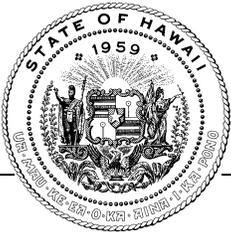
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1925 HD2. This measure includes a representative from the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) on the Hawai'i State Planning Act phase II task force.

As you may know, UHERO's core mission is to enhance public and private sector decision-making through rigorous research focused on the people, environment, and economy of Hawai'i. This mission aligns with the working group's charge to:

- Consider and incorporate into the plan equity concerns, including economic and accessibility impacts to low-income communities.

Although UHERO is grateful to be considered for this task force, we note that UHERO faculty already have many commitments and full research agendas. It is important to point out that UHERO relies on the donations and contracts for roughly one-half of its budget. Without financial support, taking on new unfunded projects places our existing research and projects at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**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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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
HB 1925, HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT.

LATE

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1925, HD2, 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

WRITTEN ONLY

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024
1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1925, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1925, HD2, 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 supports this measure.

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 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT
Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 21, 2024

1:15 PM

Conference Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1925 HD2**, which would establish the Hawai'i State Planning Act Phase II Task Force. We also **offer an amendment** for this committee to consider.

The State Plan is a crucial document that guides development in our State. It identifies goals, policies, and priorities and allocates resources. Phase I of the comprehensive update was done in 2018 and Phase II will continue to build on the work done and involve the community in updating and simplifying the Hawai'i State Plan. This will help move our state forward.

We believe that Phase II would benefit from dedicated inclusion of Native Hawaiian voices. OHA stands ready to support the planning as the primary agency in the state charged with the betterment of the Native Hawaiian people. OHA respectfully requests that we be added as a member of the working group with the following amendment:

Section 2. (e) The task force shall comprise the following members:

- (1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable development, or the director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;
- (2) The superintendent of education, or the superintendent's designee;
- (3) The chairperson of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, or their designee;
- (34) A representative from the university of Hawaii economic research organization;
- (45) Co-chairs of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, or their designees;
- (56) The planning directors of each county, or their respective designee;



HB1925 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT
Senate Committee on Water and Land

- (67) The chairpersons of each county economic development board, or their respective designees; and
- (78) Other relevant stakeholders, to include non-profit, academia, business, and Native Hawaiian representatives, to be invited by the task force and its chairperson.

We look forward to working collaboratively with all partners to ensure that the state plan reflects the priorities and expectations of our communities. OHA appreciates the opportunity to testify on **HB1925 HD2** and asks this committee to **AMEND** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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.

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Ed Schultz

Josh Wisch
President & Executive Director

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Page 1 of 1

Committee: Senate Committee on Water and Land
Bill Number: HB 1925, HD 2, Relating to the Hawai'i State Planning Act
Hearing Date and Time: March 21, 2024 at 1:15pm (Room 229)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 1925, Relating to the Hawai'i 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. It appropriates funds to provide for administration costs of the task force and for one FTE.

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 establishing 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 is important to us all. 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.

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 an 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 move our state and its economy successfully and sustainably into the future.

Finally, we note that updating the Hawai'i State Plan is popular. According to initial poll results from a statewide survey, conducted locally by Anthology for Holomua Collaborative, 95% of respondents somewhat or strongly agree with the following statement: "The Hawai'i State Plan sets the standards and policies to guide the activities, programs, and decisions made by local and state agencies. It is a critical document for the State of Hawai'i, but it has not been truly updated in almost 40 years. It should be thoroughly reviewed and updated for modern times."

Sincerely,

Josh Wisch
President & Executive Director



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 21, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 1925, HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:15 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 HB 1925, HD2, which establishes the Hawai'i State Planning Act Phase II Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Enacted in 1978, the Hawai'i State Plan is now in its 46th year. The last comprehensive review was initiated in 1983 and completed in 1985. The State's Agricultural Functional Plan was last updated in 1991. Since it was last updated, Hawai'i's agricultural industry has transitioned from plantation agriculture to a more diversified agriculture sector. Diversified agriculture in Hawai'i includes flowers and nursery products, vegetables and melons, macadamia nuts, cattle, milk, fruits, poultry, eggs, forest products, hogs, coffee, taro, ulu, cacao, other livestock, and aquaculture.

STATE AGRICULTURE FUNCTIONAL PLAN, 1991 (Hawaii State Plan Update: Phase 1 Final Report)

Summary: The State Agriculture Functional Plan was prepared by the State of Hawai'i DOA as a part of the Hawai'i State Plan. This plan was approved on May 22, 1991. It supports the "Vision of Hawaiian Agriculture," which is to have the following:

- a. Growth and size of the sugar industry determined by optimal efficiency.
- b. Continued growth in pineapple production with more growth expected in production of fresh pineapple.
- c. Greatest growth in diversified crops and products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



Testimony in Support of HB 1925, HD2, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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 black ink that reads "Brandon Kurisu".

Brandon Kurisu
aio Family of Companies





**Testimony to
The Senate Committee on Water and Land
March 21, 2024
1:15pm
Conference Room 229 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

HB 1925, HD2 Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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.



March 21, 2024

RE: HB 1925, HD2, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act – In Support

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 1925, which established the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force. This collaborative initiative, building upon prior efforts in 2018, seeks to update the Hawaii State Planning Act, in order to guide our state and its economy towards prosperity and sustainability.

Founded and based in Hawaii, Hawaiian Host is nearly 100 years old. With local roots and a global reach, Hawaiian Host is the largest manufacturer of chocolate-covered macadamias in the world, as millions of boxes of our treats are shared all over the globe.

The Hawaii State Plan is significant to everyone in Hawaii. It serve as a comprehensive long-term strategy. It provides direction for future development by laying out goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. It also plays a key role in prioritizing and allocated limited state resources like public funds, service, energy, water, and more. And yet despite its importance, the plan has remained largely unchanged for decades. This bill, which establishes a cross-sector task force to modernize the State Plan, is a wise move.

With the Phase I update from 2018 completed—and with the mounting local and global challenges we face in Hawaii—this is an opportune time to launch Phase II. It offers us an opportunity to engage the community and build consensus to advance Hawaii in a sustainable way for generations to come.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Schultz".

Ed Schultz
President & CEO
Hawaiian Host Group



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Testimony on HB 1925, HD2, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President - Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Updates to the Hawaii State Planning Act

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1925, which addresses the Hawaii State Planning Act. Its aim is to establish the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Given escalating challenges both locally and globally, this proposal seeks to modernize the State Planning Act through collaborative and cross-sector approaches. It proposes forming a task force that represents government, for-profit, nonprofit, and labor sectors to initiate Phase II, as referenced in the 2018 phase I update of the State Planning Act. This next phase will refine recommendations and guide the implementation of the Hawaii State Planning Act's update, revitalizing the State Plan as a vital tool for addressing these challenges.

Long term planning is important for our State's future. UHERO's recent report highlighted the cost impact regulation puts on our ability to house our residents. Therefore, the effort to modernize the Planning Act must include the difficult effort to change the system we currently operate within. That system is not working for our residents. We must take this opportunity to carefully reduce regulatory cost burdens for the betterment of our local residents. While we know this process will be uncomfortable, we cannot afford to simply modernize the Act without dealing with the identified issues.

HB 1925 provides the opportunity to properly shape our future. We hope that the effort going forward will be shaped to make the kind of change our residents deserve.



March 21, 2024

Committee: Senate Committee on Water and Land
Bill Number: HB 1925, HD2, Relating to the State Planning Act
Hearing Date and Time: March 21, 2024
Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in Support

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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





TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII

March 21, 2024

Testimony in support of HB 1925, HD2, Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike B. Pietsch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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



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



Main Office | 235 Queen Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 | Phone: (808) 521-0211 | Fax: (808) 521-0280 | Email: Main@TGHawaii.com | www.TGHawaii.com

TORI RICHARD

March 21, 2024

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

We endorse HB 1925, which established the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Update Task Force. This collaborative effort, building on prior work in 2018, aims to update the Hawaii State Planning Act to steer our state and its economy towards prosperity and sustainability.

Tori Richard has manufactured in Honolulu for over 60 years, and we continue to proudly do so today. And as a long-time local employer that interacts with all sectors of the local economy, we recognize that the Hawaii State Plan matters to everyone in Hawaii. Serving as a comprehensive long-term strategy, it provides guidance for future development by outlining goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State. Additionally, it plays a crucial role in prioritizing and allocating limited state resources such as public funds, services, energy, water, and more. Despite its significance, the plan has remained largely unchanged for decades. This bill, which establishes a cross-sector task force to modernize the State Plan, is a prudent step.

With Phase I update completed in 2018, and given the mounting local and global challenges facing Hawaii, now is an opportune time to initiate Phase II. It presents an opportunity to engage the community and foster consensus to propel Hawaii forward sustainably for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Feldman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josh Feldman
President & CEO
Tori Richard, Ltd.

1891 NORTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

TORIRICHARD.COM • MAIL@TORIRICHARD.COM • TEL: +1 808 847 7041

Statement of
Meli James
Cofounder
Mana Up

HB 1925, HD2, 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 Hawaii'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

HB-1925-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:18:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to establishing the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase II Task Force within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.