



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 2213 HD 1
RELATING TO THE STATE PLANNING.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Planning **supports** this measure offers the following **comments** on HB 2213 HD 1. The purpose of HB 2213 HD 1 is to require the Office of Planning to review the Hawai'i State Planning Act and report to the Legislature its recommendations for updating the Hawai'i State Planning Act to appropriately address the needs of the State.

The Hawai'i State Planning Act—Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, was enacted in 1978 by the Hawai'i State Legislature. All state agencies, including the Office of Planning, are guided by the Hawai'i State Planning Act, which is a broad policy document that sets the table for all activities, programs, and decisions made by local and state agencies. The last update of the Hawai'i State Plan began in 1983 and was completed in 1985. The development of the Hawai'i State Planning Act also led the way for the completion of 13 functional plans: agriculture, conservation lands, education, employment, energy, health, higher education, historic preservation, housing, human services, recreation, tourism, and transportation. Each functional plan identified priority issues in the functional area and include objectives, policies, and implementing actions. The functional plans were adopted between 1989-1991, of these functional plans, the Housing Functional Plan was recently updated in 2017.

The Office of Planning recently published in March 2018 the Phase 1 comprehensive review of the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The update, titled, *Hawaii State Plan Update: Phase 1 Final Report*, inventoried and reviewed all state departments plans, strategic plans, functional plans, and capital improvement plans; identifying common themes and policy directions; developing findings as to the overall status of the plans and preparing findings and recommendations for next steps in the update of the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The publication may also be found at the Office of Planning's website:
http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/Hawaii_State_Plan_Update_Ph_1_Final_Report.pdf.

The Office of Planning understands that significant changes in Hawaii's economic, physical, and social conditions, technology, and the global marketplace, occurred since 1978 and 1985, respectively, as well as recognizes the constraints and opportunities the State of Hawai'i faces as we plan for Hawaii's future. The Office of Planning recognizes that Part 1: the overall theme, goals, objectives, and policies of the Hawai'i State Planning Act, (§§226-1 to -27) should be updated to reflect the changes of Hawaii's agricultural industry and its future economic development.

The Office of Planning notes that the office has a limited capacity with regard to its staffing and would like to request one additional planner V (1.0 FTE) to staff the Special Plans Branch to support the comprehensive update requested by this bill. The Office of Planning also recommends that this update be conducted in phases as recommended in *Hawaii State Plan Update: Phase 1 Final Report*. The Office of Planning proposes an appropriation of \$400,000 to conduct this update to review, analyze, and recommend updates to the Hawai'i State Planning Act.

The Office of Planning supports HB 2213 HD 1 and finds this measure complimentary to the Office of Planning's efforts to review and update the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The Office of Planning would appreciate the following amendment on page 3 of HB 2213 HD 1:

- (5) Report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of ~~[2021]~~ 2022.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2213 HD 1.



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February 19, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Comments in Support of, and Proposing Amendment to HB 2213, HD1, RELATING TO STATE PLANNING (Requires the office of planning to review and propose updates to the state planning act. Appropriates moneys. (HD1))

FIN Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m., in Conf. Room 308

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **strong support of HB 2213, HD1; and proposes an amendment to require that the Office of Planning convene a working group, including county planning departments and key stakeholders.**

HB 2213, HD1. This measure requires the Office of Planning to review and propose updates to the State Planning Act; report to the Legislature its recommendations for updating the Hawaii State Plan; and appropriates moneys for those purposes.

LURF's Position. The Hawaii State Planning Act was enacted in 1978; was last updated in 1985; and was followed by 13 functional plans between 1989-1991, addressing agriculture, conservation lands, education, employment, energy, health, higher education, historic preservation, housing, human services, recreation, tourism and transportation. Over time, the needs of the State have changed, and it is appropriate for the Office of Planning to do a comprehensive review of the Hawaii State Planning Act, with the input and assistance of a working group comprised of the counties and major stakeholders. LURF would respectfully fully recommend that this working group should include the county planning departments and experts and key stakeholders in the areas of agriculture, conservation lands, education, employment, energy, health, higher education, historic preservation, housing, human services, recreation, tourism and transportation.

For the reasons set forth above, LURF respectfully urges your favorable consideration of HB 2213, HD1 and the amendment proposed above.