

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**
Monday, March 16, 2020
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
HB 2486, HD 2
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING.

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committees:

The Office of Planning **supports** HB 2486, HD 2, provided that it does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. HB 2486, HD 2 updates and reaffirms the role of the Office of Planning to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability. The measure also establishes a statewide sustainability division within the Office of Planning.

As a housekeeping measure, the Office of Planning supports and agrees with the Hawai'i State Legislature that §225M-2, Hawai'i Revised Statutes should be updated to match the sustainability and climate change updates made to the Hawai'i State Planning Act. The Office of Planning thanks the Hawai'i State Legislature's amendments in 2011, codifying §226-108, the Sustainability Priority Guidelines, and in 2012, codifying §226-109, the Climate Change Adaptation Priority Guidelines, which were added to the Hawai'i State Planning Act as priority guidelines to address areas of statewide concern. The Office of Planning is working attentively to plan, prepare for, and coordinate sustainable development and climate adaptation for the State of Hawai'i and assist our state and county partners. The Office of Planning thanks the Hawai'i State Legislature for recently establishing the state's Sustainability Coordinator position within the Office of Planning, pursuant to the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2016.

The Office of Planning recognizes that statewide sustainability planning and coordination is demanding work beyond the capacity of one individual position. The Office of Planning appreciates the additional staffing and operating expenses provided by HB 2486, HD 2 to support comprehensive statewide sustainability coordination and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability laws, goals, policies, priorities, and planning throughout government.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com




March 16, 2020

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer 

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard and Members:


Subject: House Bill No. 2486, House Draft 2: Relating to the Office of Planning

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2486, House Draft (HD) 2. This bill is to establish a stronger policy framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts by establishing a statewide sustainability division within the Office of Planning, incorporating planning duties and responsibilities of the statewide sustainability division and to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies.

As the State and county agencies move forward to implement recommendations of the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report), there needs to be a coordinated effort between both the State and county agencies regarding climate change and sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HB 2486, HD 2.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Water and Land, and
Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1:20 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

RE: HB 2486 HD2, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2486 HD2, which updates and reaffirms the role of the Office of Planning (OP) to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability and establishes a statewide sustainability division within OP. Additionally, this bill would make appropriations for the establishment of the sustainability division and positions for the new division.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber recognizes the threat that climate change poses to our state. In the coming years, Hawaii's economy faces the threat of economic loss due to the effects of climate change. We believe in the benefits of a sustainable future and recognize the important role the business community plays to ensure that future policies and goals are met, and by working with stakeholders to help create practical, reasonable and rational solutions to address these important issues. HB 2486 HD2, will help to provide additional financial and staffing for the Office of Planning in order to better plan for a sustainable future here in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2486 HD2.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Water and Land and Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele and Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2020
TIME: 1:20pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: HB2486 HD2 Relating to the Office Of Planning

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to establish a statewide sustainability division within the office of planning. Having coordinated, consistent, statewide leadership and guidance on sustainability issues is an important step in improving sustainability in Hawaii.

We know that the Office of Planning is actively working to plan, prepare for, and coordinate sustainable development and climate adaptation for the State of Hawaii and we encourage the legislature to support them with the resources they need to plan for Hawaii's sustainable and climate resilient future.

Collaboration is an extremely important component of achieving long-term sustainability in our state and this measure provides an important legal framework to focus on the planning, coordination, and collaborative implementation of Hawaii's sustainability plans.

We urge you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2020 4:52:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Testifying for Aloha Harvest	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele and Chair Gabbard

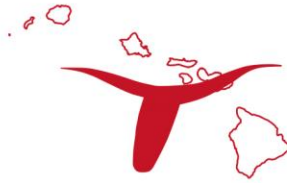
On behalf of Aloha Harvest, I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2486.

At Aloha Harvest, we strive to create a more efficient and equitable food system. By collecting and redistributing food that would otherwise be discarded, we are able to feed more than 56,000 of Hawaii's hungry individuals and families annually (including the homeless), while reducing the effects of food waste to the environment and our economy. This year, as we celebrate our 20th year anniversary, we are proud to say that we have rescued over 23 million pounds of food from going into the waste stream. We not only feed the hungry, but we also have a significant impact to Hawaii's environment by utilizing our precious & limited resources, limiting the amount of food waste going into our landfill, and in the process, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Office of Planning is actively working to plan, prepare for, and coordinate sustainable development and climate adaptation for the State of Hawai'i and assist its state and county partners, but additional financial resources and staffing provided by HB 2486, HD 1 are needed to plan for Hawaii's sustainable and climate resilient future. Statewide sustainability planning and coordination is demanding work beyond the capacity of one individual position. This bill provides the necessary staffing and operating expenses within the State's Office of Planning to support comprehensive statewide sustainability coordination and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability laws, goals, priorities, and planning throughout government.

We urge this committee to pass Bill HD2486.

Respectfully,
"Phil" Augustus Acosta
Executive Director - Aloha Harvest
phil@alohaharvest.org
(808) 208-4307



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

HB2486 HD2

Updates and reaffirms the role of the office of planning (OP) to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability. Establishes a statewide sustainability division within OP. Makes appropriations for establishment of the sustainability division and positions for the new division. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

Monday, March 16, 2020, 1:0 pm
Conference Room 224 State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2486 HD2**. The cattle industry relies on a resilient future to continue long-term plans for cattle production, which provide ecosystem services such as invasive species removal, wildfire fuel load reduction, and healthy soils. HB2486 HD2 provides the necessary staffing and operating expenses for the Office of Planning to coordinate Hawaii's goals.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 8:59:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:



183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The Senate Committees on Water and Land;
and Agriculture and Environment
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020, 1:20 pm

Support for HB 2486 HD2 *with amendments*

Dear Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, and members:

350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members support HB 2486 HD2 and request amendments.

We strongly supported HB 2486 HD1, along with a multitude of other testifiers (27 pages' worth), from a diverse cross-section of the community, all unanimous in support of this version of the bill. It is a mystery that the provisions of the amendments from HB 2486 HD1 were then removed in the current HD2.

HB 2486 HD1 moved us in the right direction to face this crisis head-on. It provided a stronger legal framework to focus on the planning, coordination, and collaborative implementation for a statewide commitment to transition towards a decarbonized economy, and a mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis by delineating the necessary goals and objectives to be coordinated and achieved for statewide climate adaptation and sustainability.

In contrast, HD2 provides no clear vision or direction, but instead offers generalized and vague activities for the Office of Planning to perform, almost reminiscent of a standardized job description template. **We strongly urge the climate change adaption and sustainability goals be restored to this bill.**

Further, HB2486 HD2, while stating the purpose of the Act is to establish a statewide sustainability division, offers no definition for "sustainability." Please restore the definition as specified in HD1, which is also essential to provide clear vision and direction.

Last, we strongly urge you to restore the language from HD1 which directed the State Sustainability Coordinator to conduct a study on implementing a "Green New Deal" for Hawaii. A Green New Deal study would provide a comprehensive review of the State's economic resilience, efforts in environmental protection and growth, and protections for Hawaii's social and cultural equity; in addition to determining and making findings on how the State can move forward to cost-effectively take advantage of identified opportunities; and identify any legal and regulatory changes necessary to implement these findings. This is key for ensuring that as we implement climate change adaption and sustainability goals, we include economic policies that are wholistic in their

vision, delivering better job opportunities, less climate pollution, cleaner air and water, and more resilient communities. All of this will be a win-win for our planet and our communities.

This bill has the potential to establish a statewide sustainability division to ensure successful, coordinated efforts towards climate change adaption and sustainability. Global warming is the greatest existential threat of our time. To tackle the crisis we are faced with and accomplish what scientists say is needed to avert climate breakdown, it will take the dedicated, coordinated, and bold efforts as delineated in HB2486 HD1.

We urge you to support HB 2486 HD1 and move us in the right direction to face this crisis head-on. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org



LATE

Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Monday, March 16, 2020

House Bill 2486, HD 2

Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land, and Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in strong support of HB 2486, HD 2, which updates and reaffirms the role of the office of planning (OP) to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability; establishes a statewide sustainability division within OP; and makes appropriations to establish the sustainability division and positions for the new division.

The purpose of this Act is to (1) establish a statewide sustainability division within the OP to ensure stronger, long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawai'i's sustainability goals; and (2) update and reaffirm the role of the office of planning to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability.

While President Trump has called climate change a hoax and worked to reverse the Obama administrations climate initiatives, senior U.S. military officers have long been aware of warming's detrimental effects. "Climate change is an urgent and growing threat to our national security, contributing to increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources," the Defense Department told Congress in a 2015 report. "These impacts are already occurring, and the scope, scale, and intensity of these impacts are projected to increase over time." The Defense Department is investing in renewable energy, including solar power and biofuels. By the end of 2020, the armed forces expect to generate 18% of on-base electricity from renewables, up from 9.6% in 2010. They plan to increase that share substantially in the years to come." Like the Defense Department's goal to increase the use of renewable energy, the State of Hawai'i has also taken steps to reach 30% renewable energy by 2020 as the risks to Hawai'i of the effects of climate change are well documented to include sea level rise, stronger and more frequent natural disasters, and loss of our natural resources and habitats.

Climate change has also influenced Hawaii's fishing industry. Honolulu is the top port in the United States, with landings of fish valued at roughly \$104 million in 2017. However, man-made emissions of carbon dioxide has caused climate change, made the ocean warmer and more acidic

and starved it of oxygen. Last year, the ocean was the hottest it has ever been, wreaking havoc for fish stocks and marine wildlife, including Hawaii's iconic humpback whales.

We are experiencing hot acidic waters, bleaching and killing the coral reefs around Hawaii which provide commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing, create world-famous surfing and diving locations are home to many of our fish and wildlife. Scientists have also concluded that climate change will lead to fewer and smaller bigeye tuna in the ocean. These and other fish stocks that are available could shift their traditional migrations, forcing fishermen to travel farther to catch them, all of which will seriously affect our strong fishing industry, native Hawaiian culture, and way of life. A statewide sustainability division within the OP will work to coordinate efforts among state agencies to deal with climate change and sustainability described herein.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote favorably on this bill which updates and reaffirms the role of the office of planning (OP) to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation and sustainability; establishes a statewide sustainability division within OP; and makes appropriations to establish the sustainability division and positions for the new division.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja
Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Co-Chair, Green New Deal Committee
Environmental Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/02/a-military-perspective-on-climate-change/?utm_source=Civil%20Beat%20Master%20List&utm_campaign=1c4fd235ff-

https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/02/keeping-sustainable-seafood-on-hawaiiis-tables/?utm_source=Civil%20Beat%20Master%20List&utm_campaign=1c4fd235ff-

HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2020 8:27:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Tierney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 9:51:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 6:09:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2486-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:20:28 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2020 1:20:00

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of HB2486 amended version HD1

Please restore the amendments from HB2486 HD1. This bill has the potential to establish a statewide sustainability division to ensure successful, coordinated efforts towards climate change adaption and sustainability.

HB2486 HD1 provided a stronger framework to focus on the planning, coordination, and collaborative implementation for a statewide transition towards a decarbonized economy and a mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis. Defining “sustainability” and delineating the necessary goals and objectives to be coordinated and achieved, as in done in HB2486 HD1, is not just important, it is crucial to ensure efforts are effective and efficient.

Furthermore, I urge you to restore the language from HB2486 HD1 which directed the State Sustainability Coordinator to conduct a study on implementing a "Green New Deal" for Hawaii. This is key for ensuring that as we implement climate change adaption and sustainability goals, we include economic policies that are wholistic in their vision, delivering better job opportunities, less climate pollution, cleaner air and water, and more resilient communities.

Global warming is the greatest existential threat of our time. I urge you to restore and support the amendments from **HB2486 HD1** and move us in the right direction to face this crisis head-on.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack, Ahuimanu