

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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

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

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 842, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT.**

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

The Office of Planning (OP) respectfully submits comments on HB 842 HD1, which establishes a Hawaii State Planning Act Review Commission to review and make recommendations to the Legislature to update the Hawaii State Planning Act and removes the reference to achieving the viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries from the Hawaii State Planning Act's agricultural objectives. OP agrees that this bill and its amendment would help to update the Hawaii State Planning Act refocus the goals, objectives, and policies of the State to reflect current cultural, economic, and societal goals and provides the following comments:

1. **Page 2, lines 5-7**, as OP is mandated to carry out Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the Hawaii State Plan, OP requests that language be amended to reflect that the commission be attached to OP:  
(c) The commission shall be attached to the [department of business, economic development, and tourism] office of planning for administrative purposes.
2. OP would require additional resources in the areas of economics, small and large business administration, Hawaiian culture, environmental protection, tourism and military affairs. Additional manpower and resources will also be necessary for the evaluation and development of recommendations, facilitation of State agencies, and public meetings that the commission wishes to engage in or even in advance by OP/consultant to obtain public input, before the commission members are seated.

Therefore, OP appreciates the recommendation by the House Committee on Legislative Management to the House Committee on Finance of an appropriation of \$150,000 for each year of Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 to carry out the purposes of this measure,

however OP feels that this would not be adequate. OP respectfully requests \$250,000 for each year of the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 to carry out the purpose of this measure, as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**HB-842-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:47:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-842-HD-1**

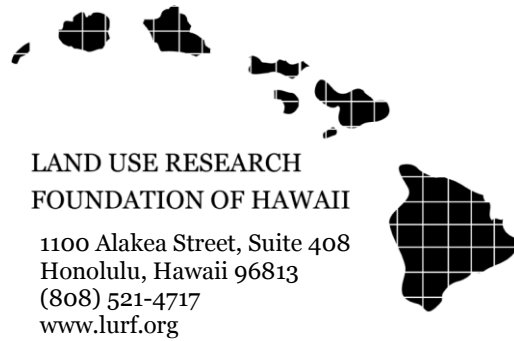
Submitted on: 2/16/2019 4:48:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

## Comments:

Does this mean that Alexander and Baldwin and other such entities, Dole for example will no longer be given priorities based on sugar and pineapple across our islands as well? They have certainly used their "agriculture" label to the detriment of our lands and people. imho



**LATE**

February 21, 2019

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

**Comments in Strong Support and Amendment of HB 842, HD1 Relating to Hawaii State Planning Act. (Establishes a Hawaii State Planning Act Review Commission to review and make recommendations to the Legislature to update the Hawaii State Planning Act. Removes reference to achieving the viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries from the Hawaii State Planning Act's agricultural objectives. Appropriates funds.)**

**FIN Hrg: Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 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, resort operators 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 provide comments in strong support and **amendment of HB 842, HD1, to**

- (1) increase the membership of the proposed Hawaii State Planning Act Review Commission to fifteen members; and**
- (2) expand the Commission to include members with expertise in agriculture, housing, energy, human services, infrastructure, education and planning or architecture.**

**HB 842, HD1.** This bill establishes a Hawaii State Planning Act Review Commission to review and make recommendations to the Legislature to update the Hawaii State Planning Act; removes reference to achieving the viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries from the Hawaii State Planning Act's agricultural objectives; and appropriates funds. This measure provides that the Commission members appointed by the Governor shall include persons with expertise in (the limited areas of) economics, small and large business administration, Hawaiian culture, environmental protection, tourism and military affairs.

**LURF's Position.** The current composition of the Commission lacks expertise in some of the most crucial issues that will impact the future of the State of Hawaii. LURF respectfully requests that this Committee add Commissioners with the following areas of expertise:

- **Agriculture**
- **Housing**
- **Energy**
- **Human services**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Education**
- **Planning or architecture**

While LURF supports the intent of HB 842, HD1, it **respectfully urges your favorable consideration of the amendments proposed above.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments relating to this measure.