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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that not only is climate  
2 change real, but it is the overriding challenge of the twenty-  
3 first century and one of the priority issues of the State.

4 Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to the  
5 State's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

6           The legislature recognized in Act 8, Special Session Laws  
7 of Hawaii 2005, that "many quality-of-life issues, including  
8 water quality, air quality, land use, energy, and ocean  
9 resources, are important to the people of Hawaii and should be  
10 the focus for planning Hawaii's future" and created the Hawaii  
11 2050 sustainability task force and the Hawaii 2050  
12 sustainability plan to "coordinate the actions needed to sustain  
13 a growing and vibrant economy, while maintaining a high quality  
14 of life for all residents and visitors."

15           The legislature recognized in Act 181, Session Laws of  
16 Hawaii 2011, that "[t]he creation of the Hawaii 2050  
17 sustainability plan comes as the State faces a growing number of



1 pressing issues, including the steady deterioration of public  
2 infrastructure, the lack of affordable housing, a continued  
3 reliance on a service-based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii  
4 in a volatile global energy market, possible interruptions in  
5 travel and to critical food supplies, threats to fragile island  
6 ecosystems, ever-increasing numbers of residents, and an  
7 increasing number of visitors over the long-term." These issues  
8 all raise questions about the long-term limits of growth in the  
9 State and highlight the need to begin planning and acting to  
10 assure Hawaii's sustainable future.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a stronger policy  
12 framework for Hawaii's sustainability efforts, by incorporating  
13 sustainability coordination and planning into the duties and  
14 responsibilities of the office of planning by establishing a  
15 statewide sustainability division within the office of planning  
16 to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation  
17 of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies. This statewide  
18 sustainability division will serve as an independent, permanent,  
19 multi-sectoral, and interdepartmental coordinating entity for  
20 Hawaii's government agencies to work on cross-agency resiliency,



1 sustainability, and climate action planning issues and  
2 strategies for Hawaii's future.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
5 as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 SUSTAINABILITY

8 § -1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to promote  
9 and organize the State's sustainability goals, policies, and  
10 guidelines through a statewide sustainability planning and  
11 coordination division to protect the State's economy,  
12 environment, and way of life.

13 § -2 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

14 "Division" means the statewide sustainability division  
15 established pursuant to section -4.

16 "Sustainability" means using, developing, and protecting  
17 resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs  
18 and adapt and become resilient to Hawaii's changing climate and  
19 ensures that future generations can also meet future needs, from  
20 the joint perspective of environmental, economic, and socially  
21 equitable objectives.



1           §   -3 Findings and goals regarding sustainability. In  
2 addition to the priority guidelines and principles promoting  
3 sustainability set forth in section 226-108, the following  
4 criteria shall be the goals for the State regarding  
5 sustainability:

6           (1) The division shall assist state agencies to achieve  
7 the following objectives:

8           (A) Encourage state purchases to be made in a manner  
9 that serves the broad, long-term financial  
10 interests of the State, including ensuring that  
11 environmental, economic, and societal  
12 improvements are made to enhance environmental,  
13 economic, and societal well-being;

14           (B) Promote investments in facilities, equipment, and  
15 durable goods to reflect the highest feasible  
16 efficiency and lowest life-cycle costs;

17           (C) Promote investments and expenditures to improve  
18 the efficient use of energy, water, food  
19 security, and other resources;



- 1 (D) Encourage state operations in diverse locations,  
2 including rural and economically distressed  
3 communities;
- 4 (E) Encourage state operations and purchases to help  
5 maintain vital and active urban communities,  
6 including downtown areas;
- 7 (F) Promote state purchases to support opportunities  
8 for economically distressed communities and  
9 historically underemployed individuals;
- 10 (G) Support state operations to reflect partnerships  
11 with communities and businesses;
- 12 (H) Advocate for state operations to help reduce  
13 adverse effects on native habitats and species  
14 and help restore ecological processes;
- 15 (I) Improve state operations using methods that  
16 significantly increase the efficient use of  
17 energy, water, food security, and other  
18 resources;
- 19 (J) Encourage state operations and purchases to  
20 reflect the efficient use and reuse of resources



1                   and reduction of contaminants released into the  
2                   environment; and

3                   (K) Coordinate and promote the United Nations  
4                   sustainable development goals;

5           (2) The division shall assist state agencies to support  
6           sustainable communities, and assist and encourage  
7           local communities to achieve the following objectives:

8                   (A) Resilient local economies that provide diverse  
9                   economic opportunities for all residents;

10                   (B) Workers supported by lifelong education that will  
11                   ensure a globally competitive workforce;

12                   (C) An independent and productive citizenry;

13                   (D) Youth supported by strong families and  
14                   communities;

15                   (E) Urban communities, including downtown areas, that  
16                   are active and vital;

17                   (F) Development that wisely and efficiently uses  
18                   infrastructure, investments, and natural  
19                   resources;

20                   (G) Affordable housing available for residents in  
21                   community centers;



1 (H) Healthy urban and rural watersheds, including  
2 habitats for fish and wildlife;

3 (I) Clean and sufficient water for all uses; and

4 (J) Efficient use and reuse of resources and  
5 minimization of harmful emissions into the  
6 environment; and

7 (3) The division shall intensify efforts to increase the  
8 economic stability of communities that are designated  
9 as economically distressed.

10 **§ -4 Statewide sustainability division; established.**

11 (a) The statewide sustainability division is established within  
12 the office of planning. The division shall have the following  
13 duties:

14 (1) Develop, organize, and promote policies and programs  
15 that assist in the meeting of sustainability goals  
16 established in this chapter, including Hawaii's  
17 numerous sustainability and climate policies and  
18 goals, and the priority guidelines and principles to  
19 promote sustainability set forth in section 226-108;

20 (2) Identify, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding  
21 proposed legislation, regulatory changes, or policy



1 modifications to the governor, the legislature,  
2 government agencies, private entities, and other  
3 bodies for the purpose of encouraging activities that  
4 best sustain, protect, and enhance the quality of the  
5 environment, economy, and community for the present  
6 and future benefit of the people of Hawaii; and

7 (3) Develop and promote proposals that jointly and  
8 mutually enhance local economies, the environment, and  
9 community health for the present and future benefit of  
10 the people of Hawaii."

11 SECTION 3. Section 225M-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**§225M-1 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to  
14 establish an office of planning to assist the governor and the  
15 director of business, economic development, and tourism in  
16 maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the  
17 State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range,  
18 and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and  
19 social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of  
20 Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical  
21 manner, including the conservation of those natural,





1 environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited  
2 and irreplaceable resources [~~which~~] that are required for future  
3 generations.

4 The establishment of an office of planning in the  
5 department of business, economic development, and tourism, for  
6 administrative purposes, is intended to:

- 7 (1) Fix responsibility and accountability to successfully  
8 carry out statewide planning programs, policies, and  
9 priorities;
- 10 (2) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the  
11 operations of the executive branch;
- 12 (3) Ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to  
13 enhance the quality of life of the people of  
14 Hawaii[-]; and
- 15 (4) Coordinate the implementation of sustainability  
16 principles and policies that increase economic  
17 development while developing and protecting resources  
18 in a manner that enables individuals to meet their  
19 current needs and ensure that future generations can  
20 also meet their needs, from the joint perspective of  
21 environmental, economic, and community objectives,



1           through collaboration and cooperation between the  
2           public and private sectors."

3           SECTION 4. Section 226-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending the definition of "sustainability" to read  
5 as follows:

6           "Sustainability" ~~[means achieving the following:~~  
7           ~~(1) Respect of the culture, character, beauty, and history~~  
8           ~~of the State's island communities;~~  
9           ~~(2) Striking a balance between economic, social,~~  
10           ~~community, and environmental priorities; and~~  
11           ~~(3) Meeting the needs of the present without compromising~~  
12           ~~the ability of future generations to meet their own~~  
13           ~~needs.] shall have the same meaning as in section~~  
14                 -2."

15           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
18 the establishment and implementation of the statewide  
19 sustainability division.

20           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
21 planning for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
 4 the establishment of:

- 5 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) secretary III
- 6 position;
- 7 (2) Two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) planner IV
- 8 positions; and
- 9 (3) Two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) planner V
- 10 positions,

11 to support the statewide sustainability division.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
 13 planning for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

17

INTRODUCED BY:




H.B. NO. 2029

G. A. Hill

[Signature]

[Signature]

S. Hill

JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 2029

**Report Title:**

Office of Planning; Statewide Sustainability Division;  
Sustainability; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide sustainability division within the office of planning to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals and policies. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

