

#### **SB167 SD1 HD1** RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Ikehu a me ka Hoʻomalu Ao Kūlohelohe House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Malaki 23, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Lumi 325
10 alart 29, 2021		

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>SUPPORTS</u> SB167 SD1 HD1, which seeks to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by amending the State Planning Act to establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facilities. OHA supports the green infrastructure policies and principles reflected in this measure, and **deeply appreciates** the recent amendments to this bill that would better ensure the **inclusion and integration of Hawaiian plants**<sup>1</sup> **that reflect Hawai'i's unique cultural and ecological heritage** in the use of green infrastructure for state facility systems.

Native Hawaiian culture is intimately tied to the land and its resources. Historically, each island, moku, and ahupua'a supported varied and diverse plant life. Such plants were and continue to be essential to perpetuating place-based Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge. The connection between Native Hawaiian culture and Hawai'i's plant life is also evident in other forms: from place names based on regional flora (e.g., 'Aiea, Hau'ula, Kapālama), to mo'olelo (e.g., 'Ōhi'a and Lehua), chants (e.g., the Kumulipo), and hula relating to and inspired by Hawaiian plants. Accordingly, the increased presence of Hawaiian plants in the development of "green infrastructure" projects can help ensure that our cultural heritage is reflected in our public spaces, educating both residents and visitors as to the value and significance of our islands' flora while also providing the environmental and health benefits realized from such projects.

In addition, the increased use of Hawaiian plants in green infrastructure projects will help to reverse the rapid decline of these ecologically important species, as well as other native life that may depend upon them. The displacement and decline of Hawaiian plants, which are integral to our islands' ecological heritage, have contributed significantly to Hawai'i's reputation as the "endangered species capitol of the world." More than 270 of Hawai'i's plant species are now considered threatened or endangered; native animal species have also declined due to the lack of food and habitat historically provided by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Per HRS § 103D-408, "'Hawaiian plants' means any endemic or indigenous plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, growing or living in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans; or any plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, brought to Hawaii by Polynesians before European contact, such as kukui, kalo, wauke, niu, noni, and kamani."

such plants. As an advocate for our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, OHA recognizes that the extinction of Hawaiian plant and animal species can result in the extinction of associated traditional and customary practices and indigenous knowledge that have been passed down for millennia. Increasing the use of Hawaiian plants in public landscaping projects can help to reverse this trend, both directly, through the development of Hawaiian plant nurseries and maintenance practices, and through increased local knowledge of these plants' ecological importance.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB167 SD1 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





SUZANNE D. CASE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> ROBERT K. MASUDA FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC RESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

#### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

#### Before the House Committee on ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:00 AM State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

#### In consideration of SENATE BILL 167, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Senate Bill 167, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to establish green infrastructure priority guidelines within the State Plan to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by increasing outdoor public green spaces, connecting people with existing trails, and increasing urban tree canopy as objectives and policies for the environment. The bill also proposes to require the Office of Planning, in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure priority guidelines established by this measure. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.** 

Green infrastructure supports our economic and environmental well-being, providing essential ecosystem services and quality of life benefits. The Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program supports our communities' health, well-being, and resilience through promoting green infrastructure including street-trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales and related natural areas where we live, work, and play. The urban tree canopy is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure. This measure would help reverse that trend. The Department looks forward to collaborating with the Office of Planning on developing priority guidelines to promote the use of green infrastructure in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



## OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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MARY ALICE EVANS DIRECTOR OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of MARY ALICE EVANS Director, Office of Planning before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:00 AM State Capitol

#### in consideration of SB 167, SD 1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) <u>strongly supports</u> SB 167, SD 1. The Office of Planning supports the integration of green infrastructure and incorporating vegetation, trees, and sustainable green design in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and public infrastructure projects to increase overall green space and urban tree canopy throughout Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning finds these proposed amendments complimentary to the newlyestablished Statewide Sustainability Program, as well as with the objectives and responsibilities of the State's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Office of Planning, pursuant to <u>HRS § 225P-4</u>.

Among other objectives, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is tasked to: "(5) *Identify practices and policies that add trees or vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures, increase climate resiliency, and improve greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawaii.*" The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is also tasked to submit a preliminary report of the task force's findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 2022.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to share its strong support of SB 167, SD 1 to increase Hawai'i's climate resiliency and implement sustainable design practices by improving the availability of green infrastructure, decreasing urban heat, and encouraging greenhouse gas sequestration throughout Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 167, SD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAI



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH P. O. Box 3378 Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

#### Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0167 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

#### REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN, CHAIR REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, VICE CHAIR HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Hearing Date: 3/23/2021 Room Number: 325 Videoconference

Fiscal Implications: This measure is unlikely to impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive
Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations.

3 Department Testimony: SB0167 SD1 HD1 seeks to establish objectives and policies to increase Hawaii's
4 green infrastructure. The Department supports this measure and has the following comments.

5 The Department recognizes that the changing climate is a worldwide environmental health problem that 6 directly impacts the health and safety of Hawaii's people, communities, and natural environment. Potential 7 human health effects resulting from climate change are broad reaching and include dangers from increased 8 natural disasters and flooding, changing vector-borne infectious diseases and food related infections, as well 9 as impacts on mental health and well-being. Our natural environment is also affected by climate change, with 10 negative impacts on air and water quality, changing conditions at sites with chemical contamination and 11 disruption of shorelines and beaches.

Increasing green infrastructure will have positive effects on the health of the people of Hawaii by helping to reduce the health impacts of climate change. In particular, implementation of the projects in this measure are likely to improve air quality, reduce heat related illness, and decrease psycho-social stressors. Efforts to mitigate the health risks from climate change will help Hawaii adapt to the effects of climate change and help keep our citizens safe and healthy.

17 **Offered Amendments:** None

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

#### <u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/20/2021 4:48:20 PM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB167 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. The Climate Protectors Hawaii **strongly supports SB167 SD1 HD1!** 

As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to add the integration of green infrastructure and the promotion of green spaces to the State Planning Act. Specifically, this measure establishes:

(1) Objectives and policies regarding green infrastructure for facility systems;

(2) Policies for scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources to promote green spaces;

3) Priority guidelines to promote the use of green infrastructure in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and.

(4) Prioritizes the use of Hawaiian plants in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects and for scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources.

Amending the State Planning Act to to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in State facility systems, infrastructure and transit projects, with priority for Hawaiian plants, would improve the quality of life in Hawaii and help mitigate the climate crisis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



March 20, 2021

- TO: Chair Lowen and members of EEP Committee
- RE: SB 167 SD1 HD1 Relating to the State Plan.

Support for hearing on March 23

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 167 SD1 HD1 as it would establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. It would add definition of "green infrastructure". It would require the Office of Planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure.

Environmental protection has been an increasing concern of government. With climate change that path will likely continue or accelerate. We will need resources and commitment to make a positive difference. We appreciate adjustments to the State Plan proposed in this bill.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely, John Bickel, President



#### <u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:18:06 PM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai climate action coalition	Support	No

#### Comments:

Wonderful way to plan to make our communities cooler, more beautiful and attend to important business of sequestering greenhouse gases



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

March 23, 2021

To:House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection<br/>Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair<br/>Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and<br/>Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m., Room 325 via videoconference

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in **strong support** of SB167, SD1, HD1, as it establishes green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Further, it adds the definition of "green infrastructure" and requires the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its State Convention in 2018, clear safeguards for our community against the climate crisis found in pages 5-6 of the Party Platform:

### "BUILDING A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE

We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure."

As an island State, Hawaii is among the first places harmed by the climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines.

Evidence of the climate crisis was felt in the Hawaiian Islands through the loss of East Island a little over two years ago. A piece of the United States has been dramatically wiped off the map after an island in <u>Hawaii</u> was washed away by a powerful hurricane. East Island, a remote spit of gravel and sand that sat atop a coral reef, has vanished after having this misfortune to come into contact with Hurricane Walaka, an intense storm that surged past Hawaii in October 2018.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

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East Island played an important role for wildlife, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, a species that numbers just 1,400 individuals, with many of the seals raising their young on East Island. Green sea turtles, which are also threatened, and seabirds such as albatrosses, which often had their young preyed upon by circling tiger sharks, also depended on the island.

If conditions align, atolls would always be at risk of being erased by a powerful hurricane. But climate change is causing the ocean and atmosphere to warm, making storms fiercer, while there's evidence that hurricanes are moving further north into the latitudes where East Island once lay.

Rising sea levels are also eroding away low-lying islands, with several fragments of land in the Pacific vanishing in recent years. <u>See</u>, <u>Hawaiian island erased by powerful hurricane: 'The loss is a huge blow' | Hawaii | The Guardian</u>

Scientists have made it very clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future.

The Party Platform on page 19 describes a way forward and this measure is another step forward for the State, the Pacific, and the World toward our sustainable climate and future:

#### "CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP"

"Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and the Party believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. The Party recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation."

This measure encourages building green infrastructure by following these sustainability design objectives: (1) minimizing stormwater runoff and replenishing the water table; (2) reducing



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

March 23, 2021 Page 2

the urban heat-island effect; (3) encouraging the removal of pollutants from the air; and (4) encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass SB167, SD1, HD1, as it establishes the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Further, it adds the definition of "green infrastructure" and requires the office of planning, in conjunction with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines, all of which are consistent with the objects of the Democratic Party of Hawaii Platform (2018).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this key measure.

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee Democratic Party of Hawai`i Email: <u>burdick808@gmail.com</u>

Melodie R. Aduja Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee Democratic Party of Hawai`i Email: <u>legislativepriorities@gmail.com</u> Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund

Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund

Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889 AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund

Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund

March 22, 2021

Representative Nicole E. Lowen House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Senate Bill 167, SD1, HD1 (Relating To The State Plan) Hearing date: March 23, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund, Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund, Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889 AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund, and Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund **in support** of Senate Bill 167, SD1, HD1. The aforesaid organizations are labor management cooperation funds between the Painters Union, Tapers Union, Glaziers Union, and Carpet and Soft Tile Layers Union and their signatory contractors.

This measure will promote the employment of green strategies and technologies including, among other things, painting concrete and other infrastructure to blend in with Hawaii's natural environment.

We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute our knowledge and expertise toward the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's scenic beauty through the visual improvements envisioned by the bill. Aesthetic treatment of our streets and highways can only improve the quality of life in Honolulu, improve its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and benefit our local economy.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice our **support** for this measure.

<u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:40:02 PM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yulia Muzychenko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is not a priority right now. We have more important things to focus on such as rebuilding economy of Hawaii

#### <u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:17:15 PM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support SB 167 SD 1 HD 1, which promotes green infrastructure in State facilities and transit projects. Green infrastructure consists of outdoor green spaces with trees, foliage, and other vegetation, as well as permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspirate water and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters.

This bill is designed to make Hawaii's urban areas more environmentally sustainable. We must do all that we can to control climate change because it is accelerating, and human-induced global warming has already led global temperatures to rise an average of one degree Centigrade over preindustrial levels. Further temperature increases would lead to widespread drought, crop failures, floods, wildfires, energy blackouts, infrastructure breakdowns, supply chain breakdowns, and infectious disease outbreaks that would be devastating and irreversible. Hawaii must do much more to reduce its consumption of fossil fuels and replace it with clean renewable energy in order to do its share to control climate change.

While this bill takes a step toward environmental sustainability, it is far from sufficient. It should be one of many bills passed by the Legislature to enable Hawaii to do its part to control climate change.

#### <u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:36:55 AM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, EEP Vice Chair Marten and EEP Committee members,

We wholly support the immediate passage of SB167 to begin constructing the green infrastructure portion of the Hawaii State Plan. Without this segment of the plan we cannot fully address the critical existential issue of our time--climate change.

This new "green" infrastructure will touch all facets of our lives in Hawaii: energy, transportation, building efficiency, coastlines, population, our occupations and much more. By implementing sustainable design concepts we will improve our urban areas and city parks, our agriculture and forestry industries, preserve our water resources, natural areas and historic and cultural sites, making life better for all kama'aina and our visitors.

Please seek out leading experts in other states/countries to assist Hawaii in making the best decisions in the many functional areas that will be affected. We can truly make Hawaii's quality of life second to none while at the same time mitigating climate and social issues.

Thank you for listening and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas, Ronald Yasuda – Aiea, Hawaii

<u>SB-167-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:05:01 AM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposal will cost the taxpayers billions of dollars and we have much more important priorities to take care of.

### <u>SB-167-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:26:08 PM Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALICIA SMITH	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will cost taxpayers billions as the State pushes their mini-New Green Deal.

Please view Dr VA Shiva clarifying how greenhouse gas concerns are not cost effective via this video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bkar4jn3JWw

This video proves the new green deal is a pay to play at taxpayer's expense. China produces and is allowed to pollute up to 11 billion tons in carbon without penalty while Americans pay the cost. No more.

In fact, temperatures have decreased as evidenced in this article in American Thinker by Arvind

Kumar https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2012/11/fourteen\_is\_the\_new\_fifteen.h tml

Hawai'i legislators must be discerning to make well balanced informed decisions in order to fulfill their oath to protect and serve the welfare of Hawai'i's constitutents and in turn for Americans nationwide and people around the world.