

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 1054**  
**RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning **strongly supports** Administration Bill, SB 1054, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201-18 to allow the use of funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments, in addition to cleanup loans. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The HBCRLF program is administered by OP.

This measure is needed to authorize and take advantage of expanded use of HBCRLF funds, which EPA provided under a closeout agreement for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds because the need for funds for cleanup grants and site assessments is high.

As the program administrator of the HBCRLF Program, OP has identified with its EPA and Department of Health partners several potential projects seeking site assessment and/or cleanup grant funds for the restoration and reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties that are slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements. This measure would enable use of the funds for such projects and make more productive use of HBCRLF funds to advance eligible public and non-profit projects of community benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1054  
RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Hearing Date: 2/8/2021 1:00 pm Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this measure to expand the Hawaii  
5 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BFRLF) authority to enable sub-grants to eligible  
6 public, private, and non-profit entities for the assessment and cleanup of contaminated properties  
7 and return them to productive reuse.

8 The Department has dedicated federally funded staff within the Hazard Evaluation and  
9 Emergency Response Office to actively support safe redevelopment of Brownfields sites. These  
10 sites are often underutilized due to contamination or perceived contamination that hinders  
11 redevelopment. The Department actively supports property owners and potential purchasers  
12 through outreach, Brownfield forums, and technical assistance needed to complete assessment  
13 and remediation to prepare sites for redevelopment. A key part of this effort are our partnerships  
14 with Office of Planning who manages the BFRLF and United States of Environmental Protection  
15 Agency (US EPA) who initially capitalized the fund and provides ongoing, annual competitive  
16 assessment and remediation grants.

17 Expanding the use of the BFRLF to conduct assessments and where necessary, cleanups of  
18 potentially contaminated property, will encourage redevelopment of commercial or industrial

1 properties that are left idled, abandoned and underutilized because of contamination. Expanding  
2 the use of the loan funds to sub-grants will benefit the local community by having more lands to  
3 be developed for affordable housing, public parks, and open areas. This will also promote infill  
4 redevelopment that will provide more land available for housing away from productive  
5 agricultural lands.

6 The Department serves as the Site Manager for the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan  
7 Fund Program with Office of Planning provides oversight and technical review in the assessment  
8 and cleanup of these contaminated properties. The Department believes that this legislation will  
9 benefit the state, counties, private owners, non-profit organizations in providing more available  
10 lands for redevelopment.

11 **Offered Amendments: None**

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



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Monday, February 8, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 1054**  
**RELATING TO THE BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports Administration Bill, SB 1054, which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 201--18 to allow the use of funds in the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (HBCRLF) to be used for cleanup grants and brownfields site assessments. The HBCRLF Program was capitalized with a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is administered by the Office of Planning (OP).

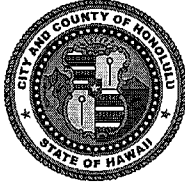
This measure is needed to authorize use of HBCRLF funds—currently limited to loans—for cleanup grants and site assessments, which are allowed under the EPA closeout agreement with DBEDT for the HBCRLF grant. Broadening the use of funds for cleanup grants and site assessments will result in more effective and timely use of the funds, and facilitate reuse of underutilized, contaminated properties slated for redevelopment for affordable housing and community open space and park enhancements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



DEAN UCHIDA  
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE  
DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on  
Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

**Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1054  
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** Senate Bill No. 1054, which would enable use of the Hawaii Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund for loans and sub-grants to eligible entities for brownfields site assessments, cleanup activities of contaminated sites, and site monitoring activities necessary to determine the effectiveness of a cleanup.

This measure would allow the City and County of Honolulu to receive funding to support cleanup activities for public benefit, such as to create a new shoreline park envisioned on contaminated property along the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail. The DPP manages the City's brownfields assessment grant, which cannot be used for cleanup activities, and has identified a number of potential brownfields sites for cleanup, in close coordination with State agencies. These sites could potentially accommodate park and open space, as well as affordable housing.

Should you have any questions, please contact Harrison Rue, Community Building and Transit-Oriented Development Administrator, at 768-8294.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Uchida".

Dean Uchida  
Director Designate