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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. During the 2005 special session, the  
2 legislature adopted Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005  
3 (Act 8), to create the Hawaii 2050 task force to review the  
4 Hawaii state plan and the State's planning process. The office  
5 of the auditor was required to prepare and submit to the  
6 legislature the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. In enacting  
7 Act 8, the legislature expressed its belief that government is  
8 responsible for resolving daily and immediate issues and public  
9 needs, while providing guidance to assure a sustainable future  
10 and outlook.

11           The creation of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan comes  
12 as the State faces a growing number of pressing issues,  
13 including the steady deterioration of public infrastructure, the  
14 lack of affordable housing, a continued reliance on a service-  
15 based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii in a volatile global  
16 energy market, possible interruptions in travel and to critical  
17 food supplies, threats to fragile island ecosystems, ever-  
18 increasing numbers of residents, and an increasing number of



1 visitors over the long term. These issues all raise questions  
2 about the long-term limits of growth in the State and motivate  
3 the need to begin planning and acting to assure Hawaii's future.

4 Clearly, a policy framework to establish sustainability as  
5 a state priority and ensure a coordinated and coherent approach  
6 to fulfilling the long-range vision for a sustainable Hawaii is  
7 needed. The mission of the Hawaii 2050 task force and the  
8 objectives of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan focus on the  
9 revitalization of the State's long-term planning process to  
10 better guide the future development of Hawaii. Addressing and  
11 solving issues critical to Hawaii's way of life and natural  
12 resources require coordinated community efforts to produce  
13 comprehensive, long-range planning policies and actions.

14 In 2008, the legislature adopted Act 225, Session Laws of  
15 Hawaii 2008 (Act 225), directing the University of Hawaii at  
16 Manoa college of social sciences public policy center to review  
17 the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan and provide a definitive  
18 framework for policy makers including defined data, data  
19 sources, and benchmarks for each of the major goals.

20 The purpose of this Act is to establish sustainability as a  
21 state priority by implementing the recommendation of the social  
22 sciences public policy center to incorporate the Hawaii 2050



1 sustainability plan definitions, guiding principles, and goals,  
2 into chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . 2050 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

7 §226- Findings and purpose. In 2005, the legislature  
8 enacted Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, to create  
9 the Hawaii 2050 task force to review the Hawaii state plan and  
10 develop sustainability policies to address the vital needs of  
11 the State through the year 2050. The office of the auditor was  
12 required to prepare and submit to the legislature the Hawaii  
13 2050 sustainability plan.

14 The task force developed a comprehensive sustainability  
15 plan that included guiding principles and five major goals for  
16 Hawaii 2050.

17 The purpose of this part is to implement the Hawaii 2050  
18 sustainability plan, which shall serve as a guide for the future  
19 long-range sustainability planning of the State.

20 §226- Definitions. As used in this part, the following  
21 words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the  
22 context indicates another meaning or intent:



1 "Ahupuaa" means a traditional native Hawaiian resource and  
2 behavioral management system that ensures respect for the air,  
3 land, water, and other scarce natural resources that make life  
4 sustainable from the mountains to the sea.

5 "Kanaka maoli" means native Hawaiians.

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.

14 **§226- Sustainability; guiding principles.** (a) Hawaii  
15 residents desire a balance between economic, cultural, and  
16 environmental concerns and priorities. Thus, sustainability in  
17 Hawaii shall be established as the overall theme, and the  
18 guiding principles of Hawaii's sustainability policy shall be  
19 to:

- 20 (1) Balance economic, social, community, and environmental  
21 priorities;



- 1 (2) Respect and live within the natural resources and  
2 limits of the State;
- 3 (3) Achieve a diversified and dynamic economy;
- 4 (4) Honor the host culture;
- 5 (5) Make decisions based on meeting the needs of the  
6 present without compromising the needs of future  
7 generations;
- 8 (6) Consider the principles of the ahupuaa system; and
- 9 (7) Emphasize that everyone, including individuals,  
10 families, communities, businesses, and government, has  
11 the responsibility for achieving a sustainable Hawaii.

12 §226- Sustainability goals. There are established the  
13 following five major goals that are designed to achieve a  
14 preferred future by the year 2050:

- 15 (1) A way of life in which living sustainably is a part of  
16 daily practice in Hawaii;
- 17 (2) A diversified and globally competitive economy that  
18 will enable residents to live, work, and play  
19 meaningfully in Hawaii;
- 20 (3) Responsible and respectful use, replenishment, and  
21 preservation of the State's natural resources for  
22 future generations;



1           (4) A community that is strong, healthy, vibrant, and  
2           nurturing, thus providing safety nets for those in  
3           need; and

4           (5) An environment where kanaka maoli and island cultures  
5           and values thrive and are perpetuated."

6           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

Sustainability; State Planning

**Description:**

Incorporates the definitions, guiding principles, and goals of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan into the Hawaii state planning act, codified as chapter 226. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD1)

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