A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that not only is climate change real, but it is the overriding challenge of the twenty-first century and one of the priority issues of the State. Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to the State's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

The legislature recognized in Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, that "many quality-of-life issues, including water quality, air quality, land use, energy, and ocean resources, are important to the people of Hawaii and should be the focus for planning Hawaii's future" and created the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force and the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan to "coordinate the actions needed to sustain a growing and vibrant economy, while maintaining a high quality of life for all residents and visitors."

The legislature recognized in Act 181, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, that "[t]he creation of the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan comes as the State faces a growing number of
pressing issues, including the steady deterioration of public
infrastructure, the lack of affordable housing, a continued
reliance on a service-based economy, the vulnerability of Hawaii
in a volatile global energy market, possible interruptions in
tavel and to critical food supplies, threats to fragile island
ecosystems, ever-increasing numbers of residents, and an
increasing number of visitors over the long-term." These issues
all raise questions about the long-term limits of growth in the
State and highlight the need to begin planning and acting to
assure Hawaii's sustainable future.

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

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

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

§ -2 Definition. As used in this chapter:
"Sustainability" means using, developing, and protecting
resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs
and adapt and become resilient to Hawaii's changing climate, and
provides that future generations can also meet future needs,
from the joint perspective of environmental, economic, and
socially equitable objectives.

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

(1) The statewide sustainability division of the office of
planning shall assist state agencies to achieve the
following objectives:

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

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

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

(D) Encourage state operations in diverse locations,
including rural and economically distressed
communities;
(E) Encourage state operations and purchases to help maintain vital and active urban communities, including downtown areas;

(F) Promote state purchases to support opportunities for economically distressed communities and historically underemployed individuals;

(G) Support state operations to reflect partnerships with communities and businesses;

(H) Advocate for state operations to help reduce adverse effects on native habitats and species and help restore ecological processes;

(I) Improve state operations using methods that significantly increase the efficient use of energy, water, food security, and other resources;

(J) Encourage state operations and purchases to reflect the efficient use and reuse of resources and reduction of contaminants released into the environment; and

(K) Coordinate and promote the United Nations sustainable development goals;
(2) The statewide sustainability division of the office of planning shall assist state agencies to support sustainable communities, and assist and encourage local communities to achieve the following objectives:

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

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

(C) An independent and productive citizenry;

(D) Youth supported by strong families and communities;

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

(F) Development that wisely and efficiently uses infrastructure investments and natural resources;

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

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

(I) Clean and sufficient water for all uses; and
(J) Efficient use and reuse of resources and minimization of harmful emissions into the environment; and

(3) The statewide sustainability division of the office of planning shall intensify efforts to increase the economic stability of communities that are designated as economically distressed.

§ 4 Statewide sustainability division. (a) The statewide sustainability division is established within the office of planning. The sustainability division shall have the following duties:

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

(2) Identify, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding proposed legislation, regulatory changes, or policy modifications to the governor, the legislature, government agencies, private entities, and other
bodies for the purpose of encouraging activities that
best sustain, protect, and enhance the quality of the
environment, economy, and community for the present
and future benefit of the people of Hawaii; and

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

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

"§225M-1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to
establish an office of planning to assist the governor and the
director of business, economic development, and tourism in
maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the
State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range,
and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and
social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of
Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical
manner, including the conservation of those natural,
environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited
and irreplaceable resources [which] that are required for future
generations.

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

(1) Fix responsibility and accountability to successfully
carry out statewide planning programs, policies, and
priorities;

(2) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the
operations of the executive branch;

(3) Ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to
enhance the quality of life of the people of
Hawaii[—]; and

(4) Coordinate the implementation of sustainability
principles and policies that increase economic
development while developing and protecting resources
in a manner that enables individuals to meet their
current needs and ensure that future generations can
also meet their needs, from the joint perspective of
environmental, economic, and community objectives.
through collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors."

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

"Sustainability" [means achieving the following:

(1) Respect of the culture, character, beauty, and history of the State's island communities;
(2) Striking a balance between economic, social, community, and environmental priorities; and
(3) Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.] shall have the same meaning as in section ___-2."

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the establishment of and implementation of the statewide sustainability division.
The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of planning for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $270,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) secretary III position, two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) planner IV positions, and two full-time equivalent (2.00 FTE) planner V positions to support the statewide sustainability division.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of planning for the purposes of this Act.

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

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:
Report Title:
Statewide Sustainability Division; 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.

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