



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Wednesday, April 07, 2021  
9:45 AM  
Via Videoconference  
  
in consideration of  
**HB 1149, HD 1, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO LAND USE.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Planning **supports** HB 1149 and prefers the amendments made in the HD 1.

The purpose of HB 1149, HD 1, SD 1 is to reorganize and integrate the Land Use Commission within a modified Office of Planning.

The Office of Planning understands that the introduction of HB 1149 is in conjunction with HB 1318, both bills serving as the enabling legislation to consolidate various government land use and environmental policy functions of different agencies into a new structure within a modified Office of Planning, to be renamed the “Office of Planning and Sustainable Development” as described in HB 200, HD 1, the House Draft of the State Budget bill.

The Office of Planning recognizes that this proposed consolidation creates a need for a firewall between its important work as a party before the Land Use Commission and notes that HB 1149 includes this firewall.

The Office of Planning respectfully requests the committee consider an **amendment** to restore the previous language from the House Draft 1 in HB 1149.

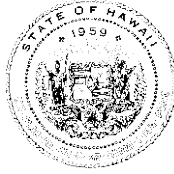
The Office of Planning *thanks* the Legislature for recently passing [Act 45, SLH 2020](#), and is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai‘i to meet their own needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity provide testimony on HB 1149, HD 1, SD 1.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH B. GREEN**  
Lieutenant Governor

**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director



**LAND USE COMMISSION**  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
State of Hawai'i

**DANIEL E. ORODENKER**  
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Statement of  
**DANIEL ORODENKER**  
Executive Officer, Land Use Commission  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**HB 1149, HD, SD1**  
**RELATING TO LAND USE**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Land Use Commission strongly (LUC) supports HB 1149, Relating to Land Use. The purpose of this measure is to gain efficiencies in the handling of land use issues and planning and to streamline government by locating cohesive government programs in one office. Given that Office of Planning (OP) is an integral element to all LUC proceedings, consolidating the two in the same office will allow better preparation for, and administration of, LUC hearings.

However, the LUC prefers the House version of this bill (HD1) as it provides the Office of Planning significant safeguards and an independence that will help ensure the LUC and the OP are not subject to undue influence in the handling of matters before the LUC. We fully support the Office of Planning's position in that regard.

The HD1 includes language that clarifies and specifically sets forth the role of the LUC and OP in handling administrative matters and operational matters. The structure provides for continued autonomy of the LUC and the flexibility to handle any potential conflicts of interest while still allowing for shared resources and personnel. Additional administrative or shared resources will significantly enhance operations, allow for more efficient use of personnel and has the potential to significantly decrease the time it takes to process of petitions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**Statement of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
In Support of HB1149 HD1 SD1, Relating to Land Use**

The [Democratic Party of Hawai'i](#) supports HB1149 HD1 SD1, Relating to Land Use, to the extent that it aligns with our Party's [platform](#). The bill would administratively attach the Land Use Commission to the Office of Planning. The bill would be effective 1/1/2050.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes preserving and strengthening the future of agriculture in Hawai'i; the preservation of Native Hawaiian culture; protecting and preserving Hawai'i's environment; and achieving energy sustainability as key goals to strive for. Our platform extensively discusses the importance of our natural environment, clean energy, combating climate change, securing environmental justice, protecting our public lands and waters, and asserting global climate leadership in guiding our collective direction as an island state.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as objectives for our future, which include promoting sustainable agriculture; ensuring availability and sustainable management of water for all; building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation; ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns; taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; conserving and wisely using the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner; and protecting restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and forests.

We find that by administratively attaching the Land Use Commission to the Office of Planning, we may be able to better achieve these important goals.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of this important bill.

*Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
Chairman*