

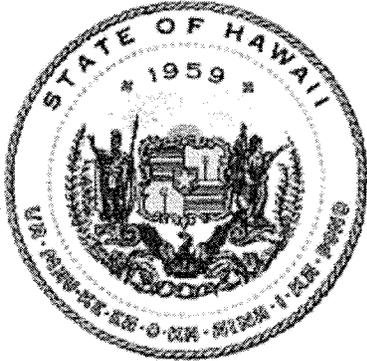


HAWAI'I 2050 SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE REPORT

A Report to the
Governor
and the
Legislature of
the State of
Hawai'i

December 2005

THE AUDITOR
STATE OF HAWAI'I



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Prepared by

The Auditor
State of Hawai'i
and
Hawaii Institute for
Public Affairs

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Executive Summary

The 2005 Legislature has expressed its belief that government is responsible not only for resolving daily and annual issues, but also for providing guidance to assure the sustainability of the State for generations to come. Recognizing that present and subsequent generations must address sustainability issues essential to Hawai`i's quality of life, the Legislature has provided for through Act 8, Special Sessions Laws of Hawai`i 2005, the creation of a sustainability plan to address the vital needs of Hawai`i through the year 2050. Act 8 established the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Task Force (hereinafter "Task Force") to review the Hawai`i State Plan and the State's comprehensive planning system, and it required the Office of the Auditor to create the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan (hereinafter "Sustainability Plan").

A review of the State's comprehensive planning process comes as the state faces a growing number of pressing issues. The steady deterioration of public infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, groundwater supplies reaching dangerously low or unsustainable levels, continued reliance on low-wage tourism jobs, the vulnerability of Hawai`i in a volatile global energy market, possible interruptions in travel and needed food supplies, threats to our fragile island ecosystems, population growth, particularly on the neighbor islands, increasing at a rapid rate—all raise questions about the long term limits of growth on these islands and the need to begin planning and acting now to assure the future for the people of Hawai`i. Addressing and solving critical issues that potentially endanger Hawai`i's way of life and natural resources will require sustained, coordinated community efforts to produce comprehensive, long-range planning, policies, and action.

In the 1970s, Hawai`i developed a planning approach to guide the future development of our state. The Hawai`i State Plan resulted from a process that engaged Hawai`i's community in developing a comprehensive, strategic plan to coordinate government and private activities for a better long-term future. Nearly three decades later, the Hawai`i State Plan, the State's Quality Growth Policy, and the State Functional Plans have now been generally recognized as no longer meeting the 21st century needs of State, county, and private agencies facing multiple issues of sustainability.

These findings and circumstances serve as the context in which the Task Force sets out to create the Sustainability Plan. We envision that to every extent possible, the planning be based on the traditional Hawaiian concept of the *ahupua`a* resource and behavioral management system—a system based on making sure that people respect the air, land, water, and other scarce natural resources that make life sustainable from the mountains to the sea.

Creating a Sustainability Plan is both an opportunity and a necessity. The plan provides an opportunity for all sectors of the community—individual residents and a diverse constituency of businesses, community groups, and government representatives—to come together to envision Hawai`i's future and how it will supply its needs. It is an opportunity for government leaders at all levels to work hand-in-hand with their constituents and to hear their concerns, aspirations, and practical suggestions for needed solutions. Throughout the state we expect individuals and groups—virtually all facets of Hawai`i—to engage in and address the issues: from the conservation of natural resources and creating a living-wage and a diversified economy, to perpetuating the culture and arts, providing needed social services, and addressing Hawai`i's heavy reliance on distant global resources. An effective State Sustainability Plan is clearly a necessity, for unless we act *now* to resolve the pressing long term issues, we put Hawai`i's lifestyle and the natural legacies in our trust unnecessarily at risk.

Throughout their fact-finding and deliberative process, Task Force members continually confronted an essential question: How will the Sustainability Plan improve on the existing state planning process that the original state planners now see as having failed to meet the state's needs via lack of implementation?

Despite the positive attributes of Hawai`i's current planning mechanism, the Task Force concluded that the Hawai`i State Plan and State Functional Plans fell short in meeting their intended purposes for two primary reasons: 1) the plans were too elaborate and cumbersome to allow for practical application and implementation to meet goals; and 2) insufficient resources, and lack of benchmarks, incentives, and enforcement mechanisms kept the Plan from moving to needed forms of action.

Hence, in designing the Sustainability Plan, the Task Force seeks to develop measurable outcomes, benchmarks, incentives, and methods to implement the Plan's goals, objectives, and recommendations into effective action and solutions. The Task Force also places high priority on providing sufficient resources and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the Sustainability Plan is useful and practical in guiding Hawai`i's long-term future, i.e., we envision the Sustainability Plan as a practical, flexible tool regularly in use and continually examined for possible improvements by those using it. Consequently, to keep Hawai`i's Sustainability Plan current, vibrant, and relevant as succeeding generations face changes in local, national, and global environments, periodic review and updating will be essential.

The Task Force recommends that the process for the Sustainability Plan be as open and inclusive as possible, and that necessary research and studies be conducted to ensure that private and public decisions are based on facts, reliable data, and consideration of Hawai`i's sustainability needs. In their deliberations, Task Force members underscored the importance of effective public education and awareness as the Sustainability Plan is created and used to develop policy and action. Moreover, the Task Force expressed the need to ensure a value-driven planning process reflecting our unique cultural diversity and rich Hawaiian heritage.

The creation of the Sustainability Plan marks one of the more significant planning activities embarked upon by the State in nearly three decades. Properly done, it can engage our community in setting a course of action that effectively addresses the state's sustainability issues and creates a desired future for Hawai`i. The Task Force recommends an inspiring and visionary process that integrates:

- research;
- an event kickoff;
- community meetings and input at numerous points along the way, including public reactions to any proposals;
- a coordinated public information and sustainability education program;
- the submission of the Sustainability Plan report to the 2008 Legislature.

The Task Force also recommends that the Legislature consider supporting these activities with the appropriate level of resources.

As the native Hawaiians used the resources within their *ahupua`a*, they practiced *aloha* (respect), *laulima* (cooperation), and *malama* (stewardship), which resulted in a desirable *lokahi* (balance). Sound resource management recognizes the interconnectedness of the land, the sky, the sea, and the people. These proven Hawaiian values represent the essence and the goals of the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

`A `ohe hana nui ke alu`ia

No task is too large when done by all.

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Foreword

The 2005 Legislature selected the year 2050 to focus Hawai`i's attention on the efforts necessary to achieve a planned and sustained future. Through Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawai`i 2005, it created the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Task Force to review existing plans and required the Office of the Auditor to create a new plan with the assistance of the Task Force. This is the report of the Task Force's activities and recommendations from its first months of existence.

On the behalf of the Task Force as well as my office, we wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and help of the many individuals who oriented us to the myriad issues associated with sustainability. We also thank our contractor, the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs, a non-governmental public policy institute, and its partner group, University of Hawai`i's College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center, for their technical assistance and dedication to this planning effort.

Marion M. Higa
State Auditor

Background & Introduction

During the 2005 Special Session, the Hawai`i State Legislature adopted Act 8 to create a Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”) to review the Hawai`i State Plan and the State’s planning process, and require the Office of the Auditor to prepare the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan (hereinafter “Sustainability Plan”) to plan for Hawai`i’s long-term future.

Since the initial adoption of the Hawai`i State Plan in 1978, and the subsequent approval of the functional plans in the 1980s, the use and relevancy of these planning documents has dwindled significantly over the years. Although outdated, many State agencies are required to utilize them as planning guides. Further, the community as whole, including many of Hawai`i’s top business, labor and community leaders, is largely unaware of these plans which also seek to guide private actions.

For those reasons, the Hawai`i State Legislature saw the need to review and revitalize the State’s planning process to better guide the future development of our state. Specifically, the purpose of Act 8 is to:

- Establish a Hawai`i 2050 task force to review the Hawai`i state plan and other fundamental components of community planning, and to develop recommendations on creating the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan; and
- Require the auditor to prepare the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan to define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines, incorporating some or all of the recommendations of the Hawai`i 2050 task force to aid in the future long-term development of the State.

The adoption of Act 8 is timely and appropriate. With housing prices nearing \$600,000 statewide for a single family home, traffic jams on all islands, groundwater supply at dangerously low levels to sustain current and future development, Hawai`i’s heavy reliance on increasingly expensive oil in a volatile global energy market, continued over-dependency on a low-wage tourism economy, depletion of natural resources and parts of Hawai`i’s fragile ecosystems, steady deterioration of public infrastructure, an inadequate public education system, possible interruptions in travel, shipping, and supplies that Hawai`i relies on from distant sources, and population growth particularly on the neighbor islands increasing at a rapid rate, the issues of the long term limits of growth, planning, and the sustainability of essential island natural

resources require immediate attention. How Hawai`i will meet the increasing demands of a rising population and further development has become a critical and important issue for the people of Hawai`i. Improving Hawai`i's planning process thus becomes a timely and important government function to ensure and protect the Hawai`i that citizens want.

The Hawai`i State Plan and the related functional plans, albeit useful and inspirational, were often criticized as too elaborate and detailed to provide practical application and implementation in meeting its goals and objectives. Nonetheless, with both its strengths and shortcomings, the collaborative process of developing and approving the Hawai`i State Plan and the functional plans provided a powerful vision and forum where State and county government officials, labor leaders, business executives, community leaders, and private citizens could share and shape their own future for Hawai`i. This sense of community vision and empowerment, which included the discourse on the role and responsibilities of government, provided Hawai`i's citizenry with a vested interest in creating a Hawai`i they would collectively pursue.

In adopting Act 8, the Hawai`i State Legislature recognized the unique beauty of the state, and the need to improve the quality of life for coming generations. The Legislature also recognized the serious challenges facing our state, and the responsibility of government to keep a watchful eye on Hawai`i's future. The Hawai`i State Legislature found that quality of life issues, including water quality, air quality, land use, energy and ocean resources, are important to the people of Hawai`i, and should be the focus for planning for Hawai`i's future.

The Hawai`i 2050 Task Force

Pursuant to Act 8, the Task Force was created, consisting of twenty-five (25) members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, the Mayors of the counties of Hawai`i, Kaua`i, Maui and Honolulu, director of the Office of Planning, president of the University of Hawai`i, and the State Auditor. The Task Force members include:

- Senator Russell Kokubun, Chair
- Representative Lyla Berg
- Representative Corrine Ching
- Representative Pono Chong
- Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland
- Ian Costa, Director, Department of Planning, County of Kaua`i
- Henry Eng, Director of Planning & Permitting, City & County of Honolulu
- Michael Foley, Planning Director, County of Maui
- Donald Fujimoto, County Engineer, County of Kaua`i
- Dr. Alan Garson, County Workforce Investment Board, County of Hawai`i
- David Goode, Smith Development
- Senator Fred Hemmings
- Marion M. Higa, State Auditor
- Senator Gary Hooser
- Dr. Karl Kim, Chair, UH Department of Urban & Regional Planning
- Dr. Kem Lowry, Professor, UH Department of Urban & Regional Planning
- Keith Kurahashi, Kusao & Kurahashi, Inc.
- Keith Rollman, Special Advisor, Department of Information Technology, City & County of Honolulu
- Jane Testa, Director of Research & Development, County of Hawai`i
- Laura Thielen, Director, Office of Planning
- Stacie Thorlakson, President, Maui Chamber of Commerce
- Beth Tokioka, Director of Economic Development, County of Kaua`i
- Pamela Tumpap, President & CPO, Maui United Way
- Representative Ryan Yamane
- Christopher Yuen, Planning Director, County of Hawai`i

As provided in Act 8, the State Auditor selected the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (“HIPA”) to provide technical assistance in the creation of the Sustainability Plan. HIPA, a non-governmental public policy institute, established a collaborative arrangement with the University of Hawai`i’s College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center (“PPC”) to provide facilitation, research and technical assistance on the broad array of subject matters embodied in creating the Sustainability Plan. The technical consultants provided a unique blend of HIPA’s expertise in public policy and community-based decisionmaking with PPC’s diverse range of scholars who are leaders in research and knowledge about quality of life and sustainable community issues.

Working Definition of Sustainability

While a formal and operational definition of “sustainability” will be later determined by community as part of the creation of the Sustainability Plan, the Office of Sustainability at the University of Hawai`i offers the following as a working definition of sustainability—“living in ways that meet our present needs without limiting the potential of future generations to meet their needs.” The Task Force emphasized that sustainability will also maximize opportunities for future generations.

Other definitions which encompass the Task Force’s current concepts of sustainability include:

- Sustainability means using, developing and protecting resources at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current needs and also provides that future generations can meet their own needs. (*State of Oregon*)
- Sustainability is the capacity to provide the best of ourselves, each other and all things in our environment now and in the future. (*Sustain Hawaii*)
- Sustainability is the long-term, cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality with emphasis on long-term, together with the importance of linking our social, financial, and environmental well-being. (*Sustainable Seattle*)

For the purposes of this report, the above-referenced concepts of sustainability will be generally used.

Significance of the Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan

The creation of the Sustainability Plan offers a two-fold opportunity for all sectors of our state, particularly our youth, to participate in shaping Hawai`i's future for the next fifty years.

First, the Sustainability Plan creates an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and richness of our state, including its beauty, island life-style and cultural diversity, and to develop a futures approach to perpetuate those attributes while charting new and sustainable goals. It is an occasion for communities to gather and share ideas—in our neighborhoods, at our schools, at public meetings, and through the internet—to engage in meaningful dialogue about Hawai`i's future. The process in and of itself, can potentially create a more cohesive and respectful community where people can celebrate our uniqueness.

Second, the Sustainability Plan is critically needed to address the many pressing issues facing our state, particularly in confronting tough issues like population growth, carrying capacity, deteriorating public infrastructure, the allocation of public and natural resources, and creating a diversified economy that provide Hawai`i residents with a living wage. Many of these issues loom over us, but have not been squarely confronted and resolved.

Hawai`i cannot control the many national and global events that affect our economy, our health, and our lives. The downturn of Japan's economy in the 1990s, and the September 11 terrorist attack both had a significant and adverse impact on Hawai`i's economy. To ignore or neglect the need for strategic planning direction would mean leaving the future of Hawai`i open to significant damage and disruptions.

Summary of Task Force Activities and Proceedings

The Task Force held its first meeting on October 25, 2005 and elected Senator Russell Kokubun as Chair. Subsequent meetings occurred on November 18, December 5, December 15, and December 21, 2005 to address and meet the requirements of Act 8 and, in particular, to develop and approve a process to create the Sustainability Plan. All Task Force proceedings were held in accordance with Hawai'i's Open Meetings Law, Haw. Rev. Stat. Ch. 92.

The following technical consultants, scholars and community leaders appeared before the Task Force to present their views, expertise and perspectives on Hawai'i's sustainable future:

- Alani Apio, Kanu Hawaii
- Paul H. Brewbaker, Ph.D., Chief Economist & Senior Vice President, Bank of Hawaii
- David Cole, President & CEO, Maui Land & Pineapple Company
- James A. Dator, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies
- Jake Dunagan, Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies
- Mike Fitzgerald, President & CEO, Enterprise Honolulu
- Andrew Hashimoto, Ph.D., Dean & Professor, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
- Ramsay Taum, Co-Facilitator, Sustain Hawaii
- Ralph Ukishima, Former Branch Chief, State Plans Branch, Dept. of Planning & Economic Development

Each of the counties was also invited to share their respective planning and sustainability activities, represented by:

- Ian Costa, Director, Department of Planning, County of Kaua'i
- Steve McPeck, Department of Research & Development, County of Hawai'i
- Pamela Tumpap, President & CPO, Maui United Way
- Barry Usagawa, Honolulu Board of Water Supply

The technical consultants presented various planning and sustainability models in Hawai'i and throughout the United States to instill a clearer understanding of the application of planning methodologies, implementation and accountability measures, and benchmarking and outcomes methods. The following jurisdictions were reviewed: Chattanooga, Tennessee; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon;

State of Oregon; and the State of Virginia Judiciary.

Act 8 also requires that, in its 2005 report to the Legislature, the Task Force: include a list of the state's inherent assets and the best use of those assets to define Hawai'i's role in the global economy; conduct a vocational forecast on Hawai'i's workforce and educational needs; develop of a framework to ensure that traffic congestion, pollution and other aspects of population and economic development are mitigated; and provide an assessment of tools needed to compete in the global marketplace and improve Hawai'i's balance of trade. These activities will commence in 2006 when research and data gathering activities are conducted. They will subsequently be integrated into the Sustainability Plan upon submission to the Legislature.

Hawai`i's Existing Planning Process

The Hawai`i State Legislature created a comprehensive planning process in 1978 with the goal of setting a vision and direction for Hawai`i's future. The five major components of the former process follow.

A. Hawai`i State Plan

The Hawai`i State Plan, Haw. Rev. Stat. Ch. 226, was adopted into law in 1978 as a comprehensive guide for the long-range future development of the State. In particular, the Hawai`i State Planning Act (SLH 1978) set forth Hawai`i's overall themes, goals and objectives, which state the following:

“The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the Hawai`i state plan that shall serve as a guide for the future long-range development of the State; identify the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State; provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and other resources; improve coordination of federal, state, and county plans, policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities; and to establish a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major state, and county activities.”

The process of creating the Hawai`i State Plan engaged thousands of public and private citizens in a comprehensive community outreach campaign. Brochures, slide presentations and public service announcements and meeting notices informed participants of various opportunities to provide input into the creation of the Hawai`i State Plan. Various organizations and community groups including businesses, chambers of commerce, state boards and commissions, rotary clubs and county agencies also contributed their ideas for a desirable Hawai`i.

A preliminary draft plan was prepared and distributed as a newspaper tabloid in all of the major papers throughout the state. An interim joint House-Senate committee kept apprised of the development of the plan. The Hawai`i State Plan Policy Council, an advisory body comprised of community representatives, state department directors and county planning directors, held the responsibility of overseeing the process.

The Hawai`i State Plan consists of three parts:

Part I sets forth the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies of the state, covering population, economy, physical environment, facility systems and socio-cultural advancement.

Part II outlines planning, coordination and implementation of the Hawai`i State Plan, including:

- The appropriation of funds under the State budget to be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies and to be guided by the Priority Guidelines and State Functional Plans;
- The budget review process of the Department of Budget and Finance to be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies and to be guided by the Priority Guidelines and State Functional Plans;
- The appropriation of funds under the State Capital Improvements Program to be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies and be guided by the Priority Guidelines and State Functional Plans;
- State land use decisionmaking processes of State agencies shall be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies and be guided by the Priority Guidelines and State Functional Plans;
- State Programs shall be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies and shall be guided by the Priority Guidelines and State Functional Plans.

Part III of the Hawai`i State Plan pertains to the State's five priority areas (since last updated in 1986), including: economic development, population growth and land resources management, affordable housing, crime and criminal justice, and quality education

The last comprehensive review and revision of the Hawai`i State Plan occurred in 1986. Since then, the Hawai`i State Legislature has made only specific and selective amendments to the Hawai`i State Plan. For example, in the late 1980s, objectives and policies on the information industry were added to position Hawai`i as the leader in information business in the Pacific Rim. In 1994, additions to objectives and policies on energy were made to increase energy self-sufficiency, greater energy security and telecommunications and to reduce the effects of greenhouse gas.

B. Quality Growth Policy

Chapter 223, Haw. Rev. Stat., requires the Office of Planning to prepare a Quality Growth Policy to address issues of urban sprawl, open space and the environment, and to uplift the quality of life. A policy framework was to be developed to direct growth and land use and to identify state growth objectives.

In 1975, Chapter 225, Haw. Rev. Stat. was enacted, requiring a statewide land use guidance policy to address the concerns raised by the rapid growth of both the state and the tourism industry. Chapter 225 was repealed in 1978, followed by the enactment of Chapter 226, Haw. Rev. Stat., which adopted the comprehensive Hawai`i State Plan. While a Quality Growth Policy has not been prepared, aspects of this growth policy are addressed in components of the State Plan.

C. State Functional Plans

The State Functional Plans are intended to further define the Hawai`i State Plan. Twelve (12) State Functional Plans were prepared in the early 1980s and adopted by concurrent resolution by the Hawai`i State Legislature. The State Functional Plans identified needed actions on both cost and non-cost items e.g. legislation, budget and time-frame for implementation. As part of its development, citizens and public advisory committees were formed for each functional plan, engaging hundreds of community leaders who deliberated the future of Hawai`i in the respective functional plan areas. The State Functional Plans were last updated in 1989 and 1991. The twelve (12) Functional Plans include the following policy areas:

- Agriculture
- Conservation Lands
- Employment
- Energy
- Health
- Higher Education
- Historic Preservation
- Housing
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Water Resources Development

In the late 1990s, the responsibility for preparing guidelines for State

Functional Plans was transferred from the Office of Planning to the Department of Budget and Finance to improve the linkage between the State Functional Plans and the Executive Budget. This function was transferred back to the Office of Planning in 2001.

D. Planning, Programming & Budgeting System (“PPBS”)

To optimize the expenditure of public funds, the Planning, Programming & Budgeting System (“PPBS”) was developed to improve the operational effectiveness of state agency programs and the effectiveness of agency budgeting. The Department of Budget & Finance is responsible for implementing PPBS to ensure that program plans and objectives, budget requests, and agency performance are in accordance with the State’s financial, program and policy goals. The budget instructions state that the agencies in submitting their budget requests must indicate how the budget request conforms to the goals, objectives, policies and priority guidelines of the Hawai`i State Plan.

E. County General and Development Plans

The County General and Development plans were created to guide the physical development of lands within each county. Required by the respective County Charters, these plans generally provide conceptual schemes for the desired direction for land use to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of each of the respective counties. County plans also include urban design principles and controls, plans, and maps describe the desired urban, rural, natural, scenic and cultural resources and uses.

Designing a Planning Process

In 2005, the Task Force primarily focused on developing a process to create the Sustainability Plan. The Sustainability Plan will build upon the current State planning process and better integrate and account for other important social, economic and physical planning activities. These include but are not limited to State transportation, harbors, airports, tourism, health and human services plans, as well as State, county and private-sector economic development plans. As appropriate, these plans should be considered as a basis for developing the Sustainability Plan.

The proposed planning process, which includes research and data gathering, community input and outreach, and public education activities will commence in 2006. Recognizing the need to develop a plan based on shared values and principles—ones that ensure that the collective actions of government and community—the planning process will include opportunities for people to express their visions, values, aspirations, fears and concerns. The results of these efforts will be integrated into the creation of the Plan for submission to the Legislature in 2007 as required by Act 8.

In review and deliberation during the 2005 task force meetings about Hawai`i's past, current and future planning activities, the following overarching themes and concepts in designing the Sustainability Plan emerged.

A. Ahupua`a: An Overarching Metaphor

In creating the Sustainability Plan, the Task Force recognized as a priority the uniqueness of Hawai`i's history, culture and heritage, and aspired to the promise set forth in the following Preamble of the Hawai`i State Constitution:

We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and *mindful of our Hawaiian heritage, and uniqueness as an island State*, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, "Ua ma ke ea o ka aina i ka pono." (Emphasis added)¹

Our Hawaiian islands are indeed rich in its physical and geographic beauty, its cultural and ethnic diversity, and a Hawaiian tradition and heritage that make our state uniquely special. The Task Force will ensure that these

1. This Hawaiian phrase is translated as: "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."

qualities and characteristics of Hawai`i's island life-style are preserved and perpetuated, and are embodied in the Sustainability Plan.

Hence, the Task Force is committed to integrate the traditional Hawaiian concept of the "ahupua`a" resource and behavioral management system as a philosophical basis for a sustainable Hawai`i. This concept creates a model based on using air, land, water and other natural resources, and living a life that is sustainable from the mountains into the sea.

B. A Futures Approach to Creating the Sustainability Plan

The Task Force takes acknowledges the importance of the 2050 time frame for creating the Sustainability Plan. The primary purpose of focusing on Hawai`i's long-term future is to better understand how and why we should act in the present. To act effectively in the present, we must anticipate emerging problems and opportunities at the same time we are attempting to solve current problems. If we seek to solve our problems only by looking at the past and present, our "solutions" may turn out to be empty at best, and possibly, dangerously wrong.

Hence, the Task Force has recommended a futures approach in creating the Sustainability Plan. By anticipating future conditions, including projected and desired population growth, we are able to anticipate future demands for housing, roads, classrooms, water, energy, parks, health care facilities, security and all the other services and amenities associated with planned urban settlements. Hawai`i's physical isolation, reliance on exports for food and supplies, and economic dependence on tourism makes it highly sensitive to national and global economic conditions. Even more so, a futures methodology and strategy is needed for forecasting, anticipating, imagining or designing alternative futures for the state.

C. Qualities of the Ideal & Optimal Planning Process

For the creation and implementation of the Sustainability Plan to be successful, the planning process should not be conducted in a vacuum. While initiated by State government, this planning exercise should be much more than a government-focused endeavor. Rather, the planning process should be an exciting, dynamic activity which includes and engages a broad array of groups and perspectives.

The Task Force identified six major characteristics that should be embodied throughout the planning process:

- Fact- and researched-based process. Because crucial components of the Sustainability Plan relate to water, air, land use, energy, and environmental quality, access to and use of recent and relevant Hawai`i-based information, as well as projections and forecasting, are essential in developing the Sustainability Plan.
- Representation of broad and diverse interests. In creating a dynamic and iterative process, the planning process should engage in information sharing from *all* sectors (business, labor, Hawai`i's youth, government, nonprofits, media) of the state, as well as actively seek guidance from various venues to include but not limited to neighborhoods, churches and religious groups, environmentalists, schools, patrons of the arts, the military, ethnic and cultural organizations, neighborhood boards, recreational clubs, senior citizens, chambers of commerce and economic development boards, and the like.
- A transparent and open process. The proceedings and information presented in creating the Sustainability Plan should be open and available to the general public. The Task Force suggests that public meetings and convenings should be conducted on all islands, and in various neighborhoods to ensure that the essence and concerns of all residents become known; training in futures-visioning processes should be made available to all who wish to use them; and a method for resolving disagreements should be developed.

Further, an elaborate communications and interactive system which enables Hawai`i's community to be engaged in the planning process should be developed. Technologies now enable us to utilize web-based and electronic dialogues to solicit input and feedback from those who are unable to appear and participate in Task Force proceedings in person.

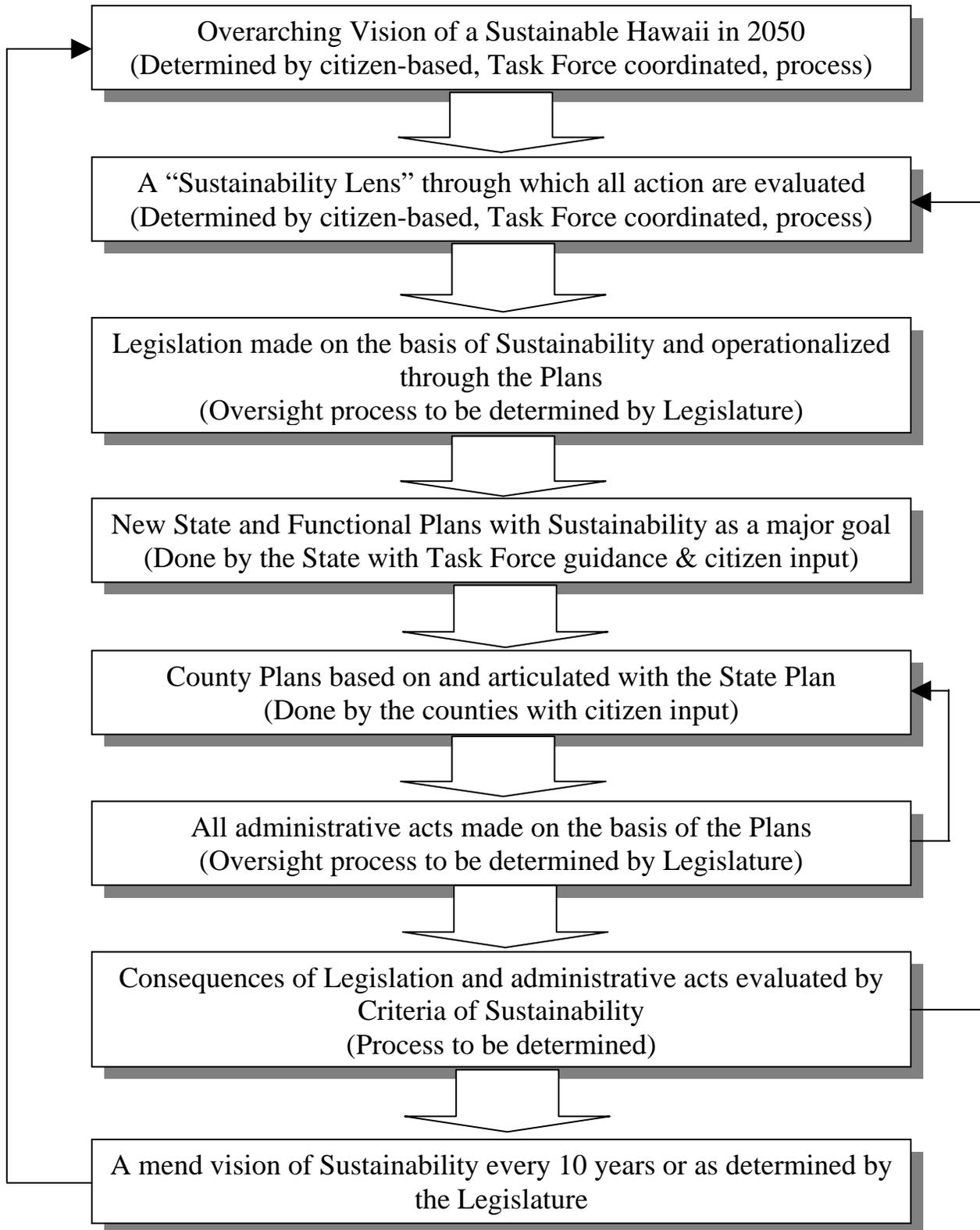
- Public education, media and marketing component. To educate, engage and inspire community participation, an aggressive public education and media campaign should be launched. Adopting a sustainable lifestyle will involve creating a social movement to change human and community behavior and norms.

- Inspirational, visionary, and engaging process. Community gatherings and activities should be visionary, fun and inspirational to engage the public in providing meaningful ideas and input in creating the Sustainability Plan.

Engaging Hawai`i's citizenry is essential to the planning and implementation of the Sustainability Plan. Without public input and acceptance, the Sustainability Plan runs the risk of being a mere document that sits on the shelf. While the planning process may engage the Task Force and those directly involved in its creation, developing a shared vision and sustainable future for Hawai`i requires more.

The creation of a more sustainable Hawai`i calls for continuing review and revision of the Sustainability Plan to ensure that the state's long-range vision and needs are updated concurrently with local, national and global changes. Without resources and review mechanisms, an evolving and progressive planning and implementation plan may ultimately falter and fail. (See Exhibit "A": *Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies 2005, Draft of Flow of the Sustainability Hawaii 2050 Process.*)

Exhibit A
Draft of Flow of the Sustainable Hawai'i 2050 Process



The Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Plan

A. Goals

A sustainable community involves varied aspects of community planning as well as daily life activities. To best categorize and plan for a sustainable Hawai`i, including the development of goals and objectives, the Task Force identified four major substantive areas that the Sustainability Plan should address. They include:

- Sustainable Communities. The Sustainability Plan should foster a dynamic, cohesive, fair and collaborative community where residents can reach their personal aspirations. Population growth, carrying capacity, governance, justice and equity, and living within an island-based community are issues to be addressed within this section.
- Sustainable Environment. The Sustainability Plan should address the appropriate and long-range plans and public use relating to water, land use (including housing), energy, food production, waste, air, pollution, and environmental quality.
- Sustainable Economy. The Sustainability Plan should ensure that Hawai`i's economy is well diversified and sufficient to provide Hawai`i residents with economic opportunities, including earning a living wage, to live a sustainable lifestyle.
- Sustainable Quality of Individual and Family Life. The Sustainability Plan should address health, human services, education, recreation, culture, arts, and other aspects of quality of life.

The Task Force acknowledges the need to develop a balanced approach towards achieving sustainability, recognizing that each of the above-referenced categories are inter-related yet potentially competing in terms of values and outcomes.

Furthermore, the Task Force emphasizes the need to ensure that education and public awareness about sustainability and perpetuating Hawai`i's unique lifestyle and cultural heritage serve as pillars throughout the planning process. The Task Force believes that these two important components be prominently integrated in planning for and implementing the Sustainability Plan.

Education for a Sustainable Hawaii

“Education for a sustainable Hawaii” is referred to in the broadest sense. It is essential that Hawai`i’s community be engaged and committed to the concept of sustainability, and be an active partner in ensuring Hawai`i’s sustainable future. Such public acceptance, including the need to change social behavior, requires an aggressive effort to educate Hawai`i’s people on the value and necessity of sustainability.

In many respects, a social marketing campaign is required. Social marketing is commonly referred to as the application of marketing principles and techniques developed in the commercial sector to solve social problems involving behavior change. It involves the analysis, planning, execution and evaluation of programs designed to influence the voluntary behavior of target audiences to improve their personal welfare and that of society. Examples of successful social marketing and public education campaigns in Hawai`i that have changed human behavior and values include the “Click-it or ticket” program which has increased the use of seat belts and the “Save Our Surf” campaign, which defeated large-scale development in Hawai`i Kai.

Further, the Task Force recognized the value and need to educate Hawai`i’s people by integrating the concepts of sustainability within Hawai`i’s educational curriculum from kindergarten to higher education. This involves teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum development and assessment, and course requirements in sustainability. Such core concepts could provide the foundation for lifetime awareness about sustainability in the same way that Hawai`i’s students learn about math, reading and history.

B. Information, Data & Research Needs

Planning for Hawai`i’s sustainable future requires a series of technical studies to ensure that public and community input is strengthened by necessary data, research and information to guide public decisionmaking. The Task Force identified a variety of subjects that require baseline research, as well as scanning, forecasting and econometric modeling. The studies will build upon information that currently exists, and utilize additional data and forecasting that is needed to better plan for Hawai`i’s future. The following studies have been recommended:

- Population and Carrying Capacity. This study will analyze historic and future population alternatives, including anticipated population growth, aging, and other demographic patterns. The study will also assist in determining how much

land development and population growth Hawai'i can support, including its impact on natural resources and local infrastructure, under various technological and lifestyle assumptions. Because of the arrival of 7.0 million tourists annually, it is recommended that the study evaluate the impact, capacity and sustainability of Hawai'i's tourism industry.

- Water. This study will evaluate the current and future yield and demand for water on all islands under varying environmental and technological assumptions.
- Land Use. A land use study will determine the availability of lands for varied urban, agricultural, rural and conservation use, including lands available for future development, housing, conservation and other sustainability needs under varying environmental and technological assumptions.
- Energy. An evaluation of Hawai'i's energy needs, supplies, and demands under varying assumptions, including projections for population growth, alternative uses and sources of energy, and other factors.
- Food Production. An evaluative study is required to better understand Hawai'i's food production capacity and consumption patterns under various assumptions about the future.
- Environmental Quality. A study of Hawai'i's environmental quality, including air, water and endangered species, is required to enable the Task Force to evaluate the State's efforts to preserve and enhance its environment.
- Sustainable Quality of Individual and Family Life. Data and forecasting relating to health, human services, education, culture, recreation and other aspects quality of life will be required.
- Sustainable Economy. Economic analysis, workforce and asset inventories, technology forecasting and econometric modeling is required to understand the dynamics and potentials for a sustainable Hawai'i.

The Task Force emphasized that the above-referenced studies should not be conducted in isolation, and that a comprehensive approach to integrate,

evaluate and review data and information would be important to better assess and predict Hawai'i's sustainable future.

C. Ensuring Accountability & Implementation of the Sustainability Plan

The Task Force and its technical consultants reviewed various planning models throughout the United States and found the following “best practices” which enabled municipalities and government entities to better implement and measure their planning efforts. They include the following activities:

- Create an oversight agency or board to monitor, evaluate, and measure plan goals and objectives;
- Develop benchmarks, desired outcomes and a method to measure Sustainability Plan goals and activities;
- Create incentives, accountability and enforcement mechanisms to meet plan objectives;
- Apply plan criteria, goals and objectives to the budgeting process. Government activities or agencies which do not meet Sustainability goals will be penalized;
- Publish a high visibility annual "report card" to the public so they can evaluate government's efforts to implement the Sustainability Plan;
- Enable each county to have sufficient resources and authority to better coordinate and implement the State's sustainability goals in ways appropriate for its specific situation;
- To engage the private and consumer sector, provide market incentives to implement sustainability activities;

The Task Force has underscored the importance of taking the Sustainability Plan to action. Upon its completion, the Task Force is insistent that sufficient emphasis and resources be made available to ensure proper implementation, including a continued and iterative effort to evaluate and re-evaluate its effectiveness. The above-referenced measures are but some of the best practices that could be considered to implement the Sustainability Plan.

Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force as part of its Report to the Hawai`i State Legislature finds and recommends the following in the creation of the Sustainability Plan:

Sustainability as Important for Hawai`i's Future

- Recommendation I: The Task Force finds the concept of sustainability is essential to Hawai`i's future, and reaffirms the significance, importance of and need for the Sustainability Plan.
- Recommendation II: The Task Force recommends that the concept of sustainability be institutionalized as an important criterion in the State's decision-making process and resource allocation; as well as encouraging the integration of sustainability into private and individual actions. For our state to become sustainable, the Task Force recognizes that both public and private actions need to be aligned and coordinated.

Act 8 Requirements, Findings and Recommendations

- Recommendation III: The Task Force finds that the Hawai`i State Plan (Haw. Rev. Stat., Ch. 226) and the quality growth policy (Haw. Rev. Stat., Ch. 223) has become irrelevant and outdated, and is in need of further review and amendment.
- Recommendation IV: The Task Force finds the existing method for determining policy priorities; allocating public and limited resources; and the coordination of federal, state and local plans and polices are inadequate. In addition to reviewing the Hawai`i State Plan (Recommendation III), the Task Force also recommends that the State's functional plans; the State's planning, programming and budgeting system ("PPBS"); and the coordination with the Federal and county planning processes be reviewed and amended. The Task Force recommends that public-private planning efforts and partnerships be reviewed as well.
- Recommendation V: The Task Force recommends extending the deadline for completion of the Sustainability Plan to 2008. After reviewing the magnitude of the task required to create the Sustainability Plan, including the need to obtain sufficient

research, data and community input, the Task Force has determined that more time is required.

- Recommendation VI: The Task Force recommends increasing the budget to include adequate resources for policy analysis, community-input, research & data gathering, and public education. Furthermore, in order to foster community-wide participation, it is recommended that private and other public funds be raised. Without such adequate resources, the creation and quality of the Sustainability Plan will be severely impaired.

Sustainability Plan Design Recommendations

- Recommendation VII: The Task Force recommends that broad community outreach and input be conducted and solicited, including participation by all sectors.
- Recommendation VIII: The Task Force recommends that four (4) major areas of sustainability be the focus of the Sustainability Plan to include: 1) Sustainable Communities; 2) Sustainable Environment; 3) Sustainable Economy; and 4) Sustainable Quality of Individual and Family Life, with the following core elements as:
 - Water
 - Land Use
 - Energy
 - Food Production
 - Environmental Quality
 - Population & Carrying Capacity
 - Education for a Sustainable Hawai`i

The concept of sustainability is broad and far-reaching. In order to maximize the effectiveness of creating a sustainable Hawai`i, core activities and priorities must be determined. While other related subject areas will not be neglected, project resources and attention will be focused on the above-referenced core areas.

- Recommendation IX: The Task Force recommends that adequate Hawai`i-based research be conducted, including studies on carrying capacity and population, water, land use, energy, food production, environmental quality, sustainable quality of life, and sustainable economy. The purpose of these studies is to augment the existing base of knowledge, and to

gather additional information, including forecasting and projections, to plan for Hawai`i's sustainable future.

- Recommendation X: The Task Force recommends that an integral aspect of the Sustainability Plan is to create measurable outcomes, benchmarks, and a method to implement the Plan. Hence, the design process should ensure that such emphasis is gathered.

Recommended Timeline & Deliverables

Based on the extended time period outlined in this report, the following timeline and project deliverables are recommended:

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|----------------|---|
| January 2006 | *Meetings with key stakeholders *Educational materials developed *Training facilitators begins |
| March 2006 | *Research & data gathering begins |
| July 2006 | *Kick-off event *Public education campaign begins *Community outreach & convenings begin *Analysis of data & research |
| January 2007 | *Begin drafting sustainability plan *Community outreach & convenings continue |
| February 2007 | *Technical reports presented to community |
| July 2007 | *Draft sustainability plan completed *Community review of draft report & input begins |
| September 2007 | *Final draft & revisions to sustainability plan *Task force review and adoption of sustainability plan *Final community event |
| December 2007 | *Submit Sustainability Plan to Legislature |
| May 2008 | *Report to the community on outcome of legislative session |