

STATE OF HAWAII
LAND USE COMMISSION
HYBRID MEETING AGENDA
FINAL

DATE: March 11, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual and Leiopapa A. Kamehameha
State Officer Tower, Room 405
235 South Beretania Street, Room 405
Honolulu, HI 96813

1. Call to order
2. Informational Briefing: Overview of State Climate and Sustainability Mandates and Brief Overview of Act 187, Session Laws Hawai'i ("SLH") 2025: Integrated Land Use Study

Presentation by Danielle Bass, State Sustainability Coordinator. Overview of Hawai'i's state climate and sustainability mandates and brief overview of the Integrated Land use study authorized by Act 187, SLH 2025, which directs the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct a statewide Integrated Land use study to analyze land capacity to meet the State's climate, sustainability, agriculture, energy, and housing goals, and related reporting requirements.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2026

Meeting Minutes are available at:

<https://files.hawaii.gov/luc/meetings/minutes/2026/2026-02-11.pdf>
4. Tentative Meeting Schedule
5. Adjournment

BEFORE:

PARTICIPANTS

LUC COMMISSIONERS:

Brian Lee, Chair

Bruce U'u

Kuike Kamakea-'Ohelo (via Zoom)

Mel Kahele (via Zoom)

Myles Miyasato

Nancy Carr Smith, Vice Chair (via Zoom)

LUC STAFF:

Daniel Orodener, Executive Officer

Scott Derrickson, Chief Planner

Martina Segura, Staff Planner

Ariana Kwan, Chief Clerk

John Dubiel, Esq. Deputy Attorney General

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

("OPSD"):

Danielle Bass, State Sustainability Coordinator

Leo Asuncion, Planning Program Administrator

1 used for signing up for public testimony. All other
2 communications will not be monitored or made part of
3 the meeting record. Written communications can be
4 emailed to the Land Use Commission office at
5 dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov.

6 For all meeting participants, please speak
7 slowly, clearly, and directly into your microphone.
8 Before speaking, please state your name to identify
9 yourself for the record. I will also share with all
10 participants that we will take breaks from time to
11 time, about every 60 minutes or so. For
12 Commissioners participating remotely, please state
13 your location and whether anyone over the age of 18
14 is present with you.

15 All right. My name is Brian Lee, and I
16 will be serving as LUC Chair today. There are eight
17 seated Commissioners currently and joining me today
18 are Mel Kahele on Zoom. Mr. Kahele, are you by
19 yourself?

20 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Yes, I am, Brian.

21 CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Commissioner.

22 Commissioner Kuike Kamakea-'Ohelo via
23 Zoom. Commissioner, are you by yourself?

24 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: (No audible
25 response.)

1 CHAIR LEE: Your audio didn't quite come
2 over. Can you please reconfirm?

3 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: (No audible
4 response.)

5 MR. LEE: Just give us a thumbs up. You
6 might just be having some audio.

7 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: (No audible
8 response.)

9 MR. LEE: Okay. Thank you.

10 Commissioner Bruce U'u from Maui is here.
11 Commissioner Myles Miyasato from the Big Island.
12 And Commissioner and Vice-Chair Nancy Carr Smith is
13 from Hawai'i Island, and also on Zoom.

14 Commissioner Carr Smith, are you by
15 yourself?

16 COMMISSIONER CARR SMITH: Yes, I am. I'm
17 joining from my home. Thank you.

18 CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Commissioner.

19 Absent today are Commissioners Ken
20 Hayashida from O'ahu and Commissioner Michael Yamane
21 from Kauai. In attendance with us is the Land Use
22 Commission Executive Officer Mr. Daniel Orodener,
23 LUC Chief Planner Scott Derrickson, LUC Staff
24 Planner Martina Segura, and LUC Chief Clerk Ariana
25 Kwan. And also with us is our LUC Deputy Attorney

1 General Mr. John Dubiel. Again, court reporting
2 transcriptions are being done from this Zoom
3 recording.

4 Agenda item number 2 is the informational
5 briefing of the State Climate and Sustainability
6 Mandates. So this next order of business is an
7 information briefing presentation by Ms. Danielle
8 Bass, our award-winning State Sustainability
9 Coordinator.

10 For an -- for an overview of Hawai'i's
11 state climate and sustainability mandates and a
12 brief overview of the integrated land use study
13 authorized by Act 187, State Laws of Hawai'i 2025,
14 which directs the Office of Planning and Sustainable
15 Development, referred to as OPSD, to conduct a
16 state-wide integrated land use study to analyze land
17 capacity to meet the State's climate,
18 sustainability, agriculture, energy goals and
19 related reporting requirements.

20 Ms. Bass may also be better known as the
21 Chair of the Miliani-Waipio and Melemanu
22 neighborhood board. So with that, I'll ask Ms.
23 Kwan, is there any written public testimony
24 submitted on this matter?

25 MS. KWAN: No, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Ms. Kwan. Are
2 there any members of the public that wish to provide
3 oral testimony on this matter?

4 MS. KWAN: Seeing none using the Q&A
5 feature, Chair.

6 CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

7 Ms. Bass, the floor is yours.

8 MS. BASS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members
9 of the Land Use Commission. Aloha, Staff. Thank
10 you for this opportunity to provide this
11 presentation. Our director at OPSD, the Office of
12 Planning and Sustainable Development, Mary Alice
13 Evans, did request this presentation back in
14 December, so we're very thankful for you sharing
15 this time.

16 We do want to briefly go over just the
17 State -- as Chair mentioned, the state
18 sustainability and climate mandates. And when are
19 those mandates expected to be achieved, what years,
20 as well as how does this feed into land use.
21 There's an exciting study which the Office of
22 Planning and Sustainable Development will be
23 conducting that we'll mention at the end of this
24 presentation called the integrated land use study,
25 and this can help in informing these competing uses

1 of land.

2 So we hope that this is informative to you
3 all in your future decision-making. I am also
4 joined by our Land Use Division Administrator, Leo
5 Asuncion.

6 MR. ASUNCION: Good morning, Chair. Good
7 morning, Members.

8 MS. BASS: So without further ado, just
9 thank you again for this opportunity.

10 So we're going to go right into it. There
11 are 24 laws which are state climate and
12 sustainability mandates on within the State of
13 Hawai'i. I'm going to start with 2020, because we
14 want to know where we're coming from and where we're
15 headed to. So there are laws that the state
16 legislature and the governors have enacted into law
17 where there's a greenhouse gas emission level by --
18 to be achieved by the year 2020 where we need to
19 meet at our below the 1990 emissions level.

20 Happy to report that the Department of
21 Health does monitor that, and we did achieve that
22 emissions mandate. Also in the year 2020, a law
23 that is very familiar I hope to you all as well as
24 it's -- it's marketed widely as the State's
25 Renewable Portfolio Standard, the 100 percent by

1 2045. By the year 2020, the State -- the utilities
2 were mandated by the state to achieve 30 percent by
3 the year 2020 of renewable energy generated. We did
4 achieve that goal.

5 In 2022, the legislature also passed
6 governor enacted a complete prohibition statewide to
7 the burning of coal within the State of Hawai'i. We
8 did accomplish that. And in the year 2025, which
9 was just last year, the State legislature and the
10 governor enacted a farm to state local purchasing
11 requirement. This -- this law is very interesting,
12 and I will be talking about this law for -- going on
13 into this presentation, because it's staggered.

14 This mandates the Department of Education,
15 the Department of Health, the Department of
16 Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of
17 Defense, and the University of Hawai'i, pretty much
18 all of the major procurement entities for food to
19 purchase at least 10 percent of food from local
20 sources within the State of Hawai'i. We have not
21 met that goal, but we are continuing to meet that.

22 Moving on, four years from now, in the
23 year 2030, the State of Hawai'i has been mandated a
24 continuous greenhouse gas emissions reduction limit,
25 which reduces greenhouse gasses emissions to 50

1 percent below 2005 levels. That mandate is on our
2 Department of Health Clean Air Branch, and they are
3 working across all state agencies to fulfill this
4 mandate.

5 Continuing on with the Renewable Portfolio
6 Standard by the year 2030. Again, just 4 years
7 away. All the utilities of the State of Hawai'i are
8 mandated by the state to achieve 40 percent
9 renewable energy generated across the state within
10 the next 4 years. Currently, I'm happy to report,
11 of course, KIUC has been leading that effort, and
12 that Hawai'i -- Hawai'ian Electrical Company, HECO,
13 just made a report yesterday, I believe, or within
14 this week that they hit 37 percent just last year.
15 So it's exciting, we're on our way.

16 Also, there's a Statewide energy
17 efficiency portfolio in which the Public Utilities
18 Commission is required to enforce the reduction of
19 4,300 gigawatt hours of electrical use. They have
20 partnered with State partners like the Hawai'i
21 Energy Group, and they are contracted by the Public
22 Utilities Commission to help execute this law.

23 The state fleet is also required to have a
24 zero emission vehicle transition by the year 2030
25 which requires all light-duty passenger vehicles

1 within the state to be zero emission. I want to
2 make clear that it's zero emission and not electric,
3 because it has come up through legislative
4 conversations as well as many sustainability
5 conversations that it is the County of Hawai'i that
6 has some concerns about electrical -- electric
7 vehicle mandates given the fact that this is a large
8 island and hydrogen vehicles are preferred.

9 So the County of Hawai'i has actually
10 invested quite a bit in hydro -- hydrogen buses and
11 whatnot, and so that is why this law is written
12 widely for a zero-emission vehicle to cover both
13 electric vehicle and hydrogen vehicles.

14 Also, within the next four years, the
15 state is mandated by the Legislature and enacted by
16 the governor that we must double local food
17 production and increase local food exports by the
18 year 2030, and the Department of Agriculture and
19 Biosecurity is mandated to measure that.

20 The Department of Education is also
21 mandated by the Farm to School Law that they must
22 purchase 30 percent of their food from local sources
23 by the year 2030, and going back to that Farm to
24 State Law, the Department of Health, the Department
25 of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of

1 Defense and UH must purchase 18 percent. So that is
2 where you just see a little bit of a division there
3 with the Farm to State Law. They're working on 18
4 percent for 2030, meanwhile the Department of
5 Education had to jump from 10 percent to 30 percent
6 within those 5 years.

7 By the year 2035, just 9 years away, the
8 Department of Education is required net zero energy
9 in which all public schools must generate as much
10 renewable energy as they consume. So that is
11 essentially what a net zero energy goal is. The
12 University of Hawai'i is also mandated to achieve
13 that net zero energy requirement by a separate law
14 by the year 2035.

15 The state fleet zero emission vehicle
16 transition is extended also into 2035 for all light-
17 duty motor vehicles. That's separated from
18 passenger vehicles in 2030. So this is how all
19 other vehicles for motor vehicles are represented
20 there in 2035. And going back to Farm to State, the
21 Department of Health, Corrections and
22 Rehabilitation, Defense, and UH, must now purchase
23 26 percent of their food from local sources just 9
24 years away in 2035.

25 Moving on, by the year 2040, which is

1 about 14 years away, the State of Hawai'i, our
2 utilities are now required to achieve 70 percent of
3 renewable energy. The PUC is mandated to oversee
4 those utility reports as well as that Farm to State
5 goal progresses to again incorporate the Department
6 of Education, Health, Corrections, Rehabilitation,
7 Defense and the University of Hawai'i must purchase
8 34 percent of local food from local sources for the
9 -- the foods that they share with their consumers by
10 the year 2040.

11 Now, there's been a lot of interest in the
12 year 2045. Again, that's mainly because the
13 marketing and information outreach related to the
14 RPS Law. So by the year 2045, the utilities -- the
15 electrical utilities in the State of Hawai'i are
16 required to hit 100 percent renewable energy
17 generation, and the PUC, again, enforces that.

18 The economy. Our entire state economy is
19 mandated zero emissions, clean economy, in where the
20 state must sequester more carbon than it emits. And
21 that is to be achieved by December 31, 2045. The --
22 we talked about the energy and fish and sea
23 portfolio earlier where the PUC had -- was required
24 to reduce -- sorry, excuse me -- reduce the energy
25 production to 4,300 gigawatts of electricity use. A

1 recent law was passed by the year 2045 that 6,000
2 gigawatt hours of electricity use is required to be
3 reduced and enforced by the PUC by the year 2045.

4 Interestingly enough, by the year 2045,
5 all state, county, and county facilities must
6 recycle water. So 100 percent of reclaimed water is
7 mandated except for the potable and drinkable uses
8 on those facilities by the year 2045, and that is
9 codified within the State's Water Plan executed by
10 CWRM. And the Farm to State's goal now progresses
11 where the Department of Education, Health,
12 Corrections and Rehabilitation, Defense, and
13 University of Hawai'i must purchase 42 percent of
14 their food from local sources by the year 2045.

15 Finally, 24 years from now in the year
16 2050, that Farm to State local food purchasing goal
17 hits 50 percent, so for those state departments. As
18 well as all cesspools statewide which are roughly
19 88,000, and this is executed by the Department of
20 Health, must be upgraded, converted, and connected
21 to sewage systems.

22 So there are, again, I mentioned, 24
23 sustainability and climate law mandates across the
24 State of Hawai'i that are mandated and enforced by
25 our state departments. Going into this, the big

1 question is how are we going to do it, right? And
2 how does this impact our lands. This has been a
3 conversation that's come up many times before this
4 to the Land Use Commission, many times before many
5 of our land agencies as well as the State
6 Legislature.

7 So last year, the Legislature passed a law
8 which was a DBEDT Office of Planning and Sustainable
9 Development Law Act 187 in 2025 calling for a
10 statewide integrated land use study. Essentially,
11 this is going to be a first of its kind statewide
12 integrated land use study in which we're not looking
13 at district boundary amendments, we're not looking
14 at, you know, I guess DBAs and permits before the
15 Land Use Commission. This is just an exploratory
16 study.

17 And it will be led by our office and
18 supported by the DBEDT, specifically our DBEDT
19 Deputy Director is already involved. Currently,
20 Hawai'i's lands are facing competing demands as we
21 all know in agriculture, renewable energy, housing,
22 conservation and infrastructure. And so this --
23 this study is mandating OPSD to bring together the
24 data from state agencies, agriculture, housing,
25 energy, and climate programs, and to coordinate to

1 reduce the conflict and limit the ability of our --
2 or to limit -- which limit our ability of state,
3 climate, food, and housing targets so that we can
4 identify how much land and where is needed to meet
5 Hawai'i's statutory sustainability, agriculture,
6 housing, and clean energy goals.

7 So essentially, this is data driven
8 foundation for future planning to help informed
9 decision makers like you, our legislatures, and
10 other decision makers across the state to ensure
11 land resources are used wisely and sustainably to
12 support climate resilient balance growth protecting
13 our 'Aina while strengthening Hawai'i's economy and
14 communities.

15 With that, that completes my brief
16 presentation. Chair, I'm available for questions.

17 CHAIR LEE: Well, thank you very much for
18 your comprehensive presentation and especially with
19 the citations, Ms. Bass.

20 Commissioners, are there any questions for
21 Ms. Bass?

22 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Chair, I have a
23 question.

24 CHAIR LEE: Sure. Commissioner Miyasato.

25 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Thank you. So I

1 just wanted to (indiscernible) had inquired in the
2 report findings into the leg?

3 MS. BASS: Yes.

4 CHAIR LEE: Well, was that report given to
5 the leg?

6 MS. BASS: Unfortunately, no. We
7 experienced some significant delay in the release of
8 the financing for that bill, so we actually only
9 received our financing at the end of last year, so
10 we're unable to fulfill that mandate.

11 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Was that person
12 hired?

13 MS. BASS: Yes. We have -- the person
14 wasn't hired yet. We have actually solicited the
15 job description and whatnot. We have held
16 interviews as well and we're closing in on the
17 hiring process now.

18 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Okay. So yeah, I
19 kind of noticed that you was referencing everything
20 that's been -- going to be started and completed, so
21 I was --

22 MS. BASS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. We --
23 unfortunately due to that financial delay, we are a
24 little behind on that, and so we've been very clear
25 with the legislature and the administration as well.

1 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Another thing I
2 would point out is I didn't notice any mention on
3 that affordable housing rental in the study, the 20
4 -- 22,000 plus.

5 MS. BASS: Yes. Yes. That is a mandate
6 within the study.

7 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Okay. So will it
8 be upfront hopefully, not in 2050?

9 MS. BASS: So the -- well, how we're going
10 to explore the study is with all the mandates
11 including the 22,500 for the affordable housing
12 rental units. Of course, OPSD has previously
13 produced reports on that, so we're -- our goal is to
14 align all of this information to help inform how we
15 can proceed moving forward.

16 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: I know it's kind
17 of premature, but would you sort of be looking
18 county by county as to the integration of land and
19 uses for --

20 MS. BASS: The -- the mandate of the law
21 requires us to look within the agricultural district
22 statewide. So, again, acknowledging that we are
23 behind on -- on this given the financial -- the
24 delay of the financial release, that is the goal, is
25 to look throughout the agricultural district.

1 Concurrently the Department of Business and Economic
2 Development is leading in accordance with the
3 Executive Order 2501, they're looking into state-
4 owned lands on how we can find that balance and
5 align energy, agricultural production, as well as
6 housing.

7 So DBEDT has been taking that lead. I
8 gave that mention to the Deputy Director of DBEDT
9 who has been leading that charge with so many of our
10 agencies, HHFDC, ADC, of course our own employees
11 within the OPSD. This -- the point of this bill is
12 to meet that endeavor and look within the
13 agricultural district and align both of these
14 matters.

15 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: You know, looking
16 at this PowerPoint, just interest -- kind of sparked
17 an interest in how some of these topics for emission
18 affects integration in land division in agricultural
19 districts. So with the topic of -- so for me, when
20 I read the bills, emphasis seemed to have been
21 competing.

22 MS. BASS: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: And so how does
24 emission compete with the ag- land designation?

25 MS. BASS: I believe when it comes to

1 emissions, essentially, we want to just -- we want
2 to make sure that the sustainability and climate
3 mandates are working concurrently with our energy,
4 agricultural, and housing goals, right? The -- the
5 point is to try to align them to deescalate this
6 competing -- this competition of use.

7 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Maybe wind farms,
8 solar farms and stuff on ag lands, I don't know.

9 MS. BASS: Promote dual uses,
10 agrivoltaics, multiple uses. You know, we only have
11 the 4 million acres of land, so we've got to be
12 mindful of our 'Aina.

13 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Okay. I guess my
14 last thing for now. For -- and it's nothing to do
15 with you. It's within this bill. My disappointment
16 is the elephant in the room that most of its going
17 to be poured on environmental management. I mean,
18 we've got to find a place for the waste for the
19 future. I wish that was in the study. None of your
20 doing, but to me that's the immediate I would say
21 need for a \$300,000 study. It would be great to
22 have that in there. Just a comment.

23 MS. BASS: Thank you. I appreciate that.

24 CHAIR LEE: Great questions, Commissioner
25 Miyasato.

1 Anybody -- anybody else with any questions
2 for Ms. Bass? Anybody else?

3 MS. BASS: Would you like me to stop
4 sharing?

5 MS. KWAN: Maybe.

6 CHAIR LEE: All right. Well, I'm going to
7 ask a couple of questions then. These mandates are
8 very ambitious.

9 MS. BASS: They are.

10 CHAIR LEE: What kind of carrots or sticks
11 or any logical advancements might there be that will
12 help us get to these goals?

13 MS. BASS: That comes up quite a bit.
14 They are ambitious, absolutely. And I do remind
15 members that, you know, it was through a course of
16 time that the state legislature passed these laws,
17 and various governors have signed them into law,
18 right? So it's not one particular person, it's --
19 these are just the laws that we're all kind of
20 working on executing now, right?

21 And so with some of the laws, you know,
22 the Department of Education, all the mandates put in
23 for -- put on them for example for renewable energy,
24 net zero, the food security laws, they're of course
25 reportable to that, right? And so there's been

1 significant coverage in the media where the
2 Department of Education needs to report back to the
3 legislature on this.

4 Same goes with the Department of
5 Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Public Utilities
6 Commission, so there are pieces of enforcement on --
7 on these matters. There are some meals that -- some
8 of these laws were there is no enforcement entity,
9 right? And it's mandate that's out there on all of
10 us.

11 So one thing that we've heard from the
12 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development is
13 that as we've been creating the state's
14 sustainability branch is how can we make this
15 information more transparent, more user friendly,
16 and, you know, provide that accountability for the
17 public, because, you know, we've heard from our
18 policy makers that oftentimes they don't know where
19 we are in -- in measuring these goals. So that is a
20 part of our hopes is that we put together a
21 dashboard.

22 You know, there is very minimal staffing
23 to the state's sustainability branch. We've had
24 funding issues in the past. And so, you know, we do
25 want to commit to a dashboard in which we work as a

1 centralized entity to help inform our state and
2 county agencies and partners as well as the public
3 on where we are on hitting these goals.

4 So hopefully -- it's not enforcement,
5 Chair. And the Office of Planning, I don't have the
6 staff to enforce, right? And we don't have any
7 enforcement authority or powers. But we just
8 believe that, you know, information is very helpful
9 and transparent to the public and we find that this
10 will be helpful as we go together as a -- as a
11 public body asking whether or not we've -- we've
12 achieved any of these goals 4 years or 14 or 24
13 years from now.

14 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. And my --

15 MR. ASUNCION: Chair, if I may?

16 CHAIR LEE: Oh, Mr. Asuncion?

17 MR. ASUNCION: I can speak to, like, the
18 housing component, right? And you asked about
19 whether or not there's incentives or things that are
20 happening. Right now, as you may know, there's a
21 couple of bills going through the legislature,
22 right? So -- and I'll take TOD as an example,
23 right?

24 O'ahu fully developed, but we're not --
25 we're now working with the neighbor islands, right,

1 because TOD means something different on -- on the
2 neighbor islands. But trying to get them to
3 identify their TOD areas, right? And the incentive
4 there is we're also trying to line up the State
5 monies and the dwelling -- you know, the dwelling
6 unit revolving fund et cetera with HHFDC to look at
7 infrastructure improvements that might deliver more
8 housing, right?

9 But they have to be in a TOD area, right?
10 Having HCDA, right, they now can look at across the
11 gamut not so much, you know, community development
12 districts but to assist, say, the county, right,
13 increase some of that infrastructure or even
14 development if they wish to.

15 Commissioner Miyasato, I was around when
16 we did that rental housing report and I will say the
17 -- the -- all of that was to try to identify all of
18 the lands in the state, right, on three different
19 tiers, right? 1, ready to do development, right?
20 You know, probably got permitting already or maybe
21 you just need a couple more permits, infrastructure
22 a quarter mile away so that it's, you know, easily
23 extendable, right, so that kind of put that in tier
24 1.

25 Tier 2 was maybe the infrastructure half a

1 mile away, right? A little bit harder. Tier 3 was,
2 like, you know, raw land. It will take some effort
3 to come to the LUC to reclassify it, get county
4 zoning, et cetera. The use of that report actually
5 has been used, because one of the -- an offshoot we
6 wanted was if there were developers out there
7 willing to look at it, because we also named the
8 landowner, right, and to go talk to the landowner,
9 like, you know, you have this vacant land or you
10 have this -- you know, this kind of uses on it now
11 maybe only got a one, two-story walkup. Maybe,
12 like, put, right, like, a six, seven floor condo,
13 right?

14 So, right, try to encourage that. And I
15 know some developers have used that. For the
16 neighbor islands, because there weren't too many --
17 too much interest so much, but I -- we still felt
18 like you're going to spread that 22,500 units across
19 statewide, right? Yeah, we could develop it all on
20 O'ahu, but it won't help the neighbor islands.

21 So what we did there was we had actually
22 each county go name your top 10 projects, right,
23 that could be rental housing. So that's in the
24 report. So if -- right, if they carried through
25 with it, which I haven't tracked if they did, right,

1 there's a list of projects that each county said,
2 you know, here's our top 10 that we think we can
3 move forwards on if we get resources, et cetera.

4 So -- so to that kind, I mean, that effort
5 is ongoing, and we can certainly incorporate it onto
6 -- you know, into this report even though it's not
7 mandated or -- it's not clearly mandated, it just
8 has housing. But those are the types of incentives
9 that are out there, right? Like, you know, more
10 infrastructure wise but also assistance and
11 development. But we have to gear it towards
12 something, because the leg said, right, use it in
13 TOD areas, use it in these special areas.

14 CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Asuncion.
15 Commissioners, any other comments?

16 COMMISSIONER U'U: I have a question --
17 question.

18 CHAIR LEE: Sure, Mr. U'u.

19 COMMISSIONER U'U: Yeah. Just -- just
20 one. As I look at the Farm to State local food
21 purchasing for DOE, UH, what partnerships are you
22 guys creating to get that volume of I guess locally
23 grown food at? Like, what partnerships, avenues,
24 like, kind break it down for one -- maybe I can kind
25 of see it, but is there a plan in place? I

1 understand there's bills that has -- has to be done
2 or it's done, but what other partnerships -- are you
3 partnering like a Maui (indiscernible). Is -- is
4 there outreach to obtain this goal?

5 MS. BASS: Yes. So since this is a recent
6 law that was passed, it was originally just led by
7 each department. And of course, that's not going to
8 work in the long run, right, if every department's
9 going into their food production, right? And -- and
10 you know, that's just going to overwhelm the farmer,
11 too, right?

12 And so you're starting to see DBEDT
13 getting in that conversation of trying to work with
14 farmers, work with Mahi Pono, right? Work with ADC
15 to try to have ADC message these -- these large
16 mandates on the state, right, on how we can, you
17 know, fulfill these -- these food production
18 requirements.

19 So those conversations are beginning.
20 Unfortunately, as we saw in 2025 with that reporting
21 requirement, the departments within 2024 and '25
22 were still just acting independently. And so what
23 the State is now -- we're starting to work on that
24 interagency coordination to help fulfill these
25 mandates in the future.

1 COMMISSIONER U'U: I know Kamehameha
2 Schools Kapalama currently has poi every day.

3 MS. BASS: Nice. That sounds good.

4 COMMISSIONER U'U: But they found out that
5 they're not used to poi. So you've got to
6 reintroduce to them to it at a young age, right? So
7 I'm used to it. I might not be able to afford it
8 every day. (Inaudible.)

9 MS. BASS: What do you mean they're not
10 used to it? They never get it when they were
11 babies?

12 COMMISSIONER U'U: No. I would love to
13 see a breakdown plan of how you -- I mean, you know,
14 again, lofty goals.

15 MS. BASS: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER U'U: But -- but we've got to
17 go somewhere. And I like the integrated part but I
18 cannot see how we can -- I know we're behind the
19 eight ball currently, I was curious. What is the
20 biggest impediments would be other than funding?

21 MS. BASS: Coordination.

22 MR. ASUNCION: Coordination.

23 MS. BASS: Coordination. Right. And it's
24 information management, right? And so this is where
25 I would say from -- at least from our perspective,

1 right, and the responsibilities of our -- this
2 branch and OPSD, right, we serve as a centralized
3 agency within the state, right, and we're a
4 coordinating agency, so we can talk to all of those
5 departments.

6 And so as I've been listening and talking
7 to these departments as well as many policy makers
8 and frustrated folks, right, on how are we on 10
9 percent or 18 percent, right, when we have those
10 numbers thrown out, right? A lot of frustration
11 we've heard is, you know, you've got to go into an
12 annual report of this department or that department
13 and you're not getting that information so readily.

14 So that is a part of what we want to do is
15 -- is, you know, that dashboard that I mentioned
16 where we can reach out to DOE and UH and everybody
17 else, get that information, use our coordinating
18 laws to enable this information and put it publicly
19 available. I think when we have more clear
20 information, more coordination from a statewide
21 perspective, we can move forward, you know, quicker,
22 right, so that we can start part -- finding those
23 partners so that we can hit these food production
24 goals.

25 COMMISSIONER U'U: I know when I was in

1 high school, we had ag classes. And -- and that's
2 an easy route to food production through ag classes,
3 right? So and that was very popular in the 80s, the
4 ag classes. So we could take the food home, we
5 could -- and then you get the bug, right? There's a
6 bug you plant. But I don't know if it's in the
7 school system now, but it was even in our grade
8 school, in our elementary school. We had farming,
9 ag classes in our elementary school. I think that's
10 something we need to reintroduce and get people
11 outside. I think that's an easy way, to a degree,
12 to create jobs.

13 MS. BASS: Absolutely. Yeah. There have
14 been investments within the university, the campus
15 system of course, with producing food hubs across
16 the islands, right, as well as how do we get, you
17 know, students to get more interested in
18 agriculture, right? When you talk to Farm Bureau,
19 they say the average farmer is 61, right? That's
20 not going to work out in 2050.

21 So, right, we've got to get, right, the
22 youth more interested and involved and -- and, you
23 know, partner that up between DOE and the University
24 of Hawai'i, right, and there is that pilot program
25 going on with the Leeward Community College on O'ahu

1 where they are starting to work with, you know,
2 Waipahu High School, Leilehua High School, Mililani
3 High School to start fast tracking this -- this --
4 this vocational development, right, so that we can
5 have some more funding for our farmers.

6 COMMISSIONER U'U: Thank you.

7 CHAIR LEE: Ms. Bass, do you know if there
8 are still 4-H programs in the high schools?

9 MS. BASS: There are, yes, Chair. I was
10 very pleased to see at the State Capitol's
11 agriculture day which was just a couple weeks ago if
12 I'm not mistaken, there were so many 4-H programs.
13 And I am very proud to say that there are, you know,
14 at least -- actually across the State, excuse me,
15 our elementary schools do partner with nonprofit
16 groups. I know Kokua Hawai'i Foundation is a good
17 one where they have 'Aina based learning for food
18 production goals, and they do composting as well.

19 So and then there are some ag programs
20 within our our high school systems and our -- our
21 high schools and our middle schools. So, no,
22 they're still there, we just need to put some more
23 umph behind it.

24 CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

25 Vice Chair Carr Smith?

1 COMMISSIONER CARR SMITH: Thank you,
2 Chair. Yeah. I'm grateful for the -- the
3 conversation here about the food expectations. Like
4 Commissioner U'u, I was -- I was wondering about
5 that as well, doubling food production is -- is
6 lofty and I'm sure we all wish that would happen. I
7 live in Waimea, which many think is the food basket
8 of the Big Island, and we have farmers retiring left
9 and right and while our local schools do have school
10 gardens, it's -- it's really hard to get the younger
11 generations interested in this.

12 So I was wondering about incentives being
13 supported and having incentives to become new
14 farmers or existing farmers to grow. So I wondered
15 about that. And then my other question was if
16 there's any support out there that I may not know
17 about on the cesspool conversions. Are there any
18 grants or tax rebates or anything like that in the
19 works that you're aware of? Thank you.

20 MS. BASS: Thank you for the question.
21 I'll go with the last question first. For -- so
22 first, the cesspool conversion, that is a kuleana
23 that the Department of Health carries. They have to
24 -- they have to report back every year to the
25 legislature on the progress for cesspool conversion.

1 They're working hand in hand with a nonprofit entity
2 called WAI, and so that nonprofit entity has quite a
3 few grants that they have accumulated.

4 They're working with other nonprofit
5 entities as well as the University of Hawaii. I
6 recall that the Hilo Community College was recently
7 partnering with WAI and the Department of Health on
8 vocational training for cesspool conversion
9 opportunities as well as they're outreaching to, you
10 know, native Hawai'ian groups such as CNHA as well
11 as or, sorry, the Hawai'ian Council as well as ALU
12 LIKE. So there is -- there is a lot of excitement.
13 There are some grants available. It is largely led
14 through this WAI nonprofit and as -- in partnership
15 with the Department of Health. Yes.

16 As to incentive opportunities,
17 Commissioner Carr Smith, absolutely. I believe that
18 there are a myriad of bills at the legislature right
19 now where the -- I mean, I think Leo and I were just
20 having a conversation about our office submitting a
21 -- quite a few -- quite a lot of testimony in
22 support of subsidies and incentive programs for
23 agriculture.

24 I -- I recently recall quite a few senate
25 bills. Unfortunately, I don't have their status at

1 the top of my head, and I do apologize for that.
2 But our office has been strongly supportive of, you
3 know, agricultural production as well as just
4 finding multi-uses, you know, even in terms of
5 agrivoltaics so that we can meet our energy goals as
6 well as farming and food production goals.

7 So we strongly support all incentives and
8 subsidies to our farmers. We -- we like to think of
9 ourselves as strong partners of our farming
10 community in OSPD.

11 COMMISSIONER CARR SMITH: Thank you for
12 that.

13 MS. BASS: Yep.

14 COMMISSIONER U'U: It's like
15 (indiscernible). You know we have a deer problem on
16 Maui here. That is so good tasting, though. I
17 mean, it is a, you know, problem and we -- over here
18 we need a food solution, right? So if you're
19 hearing it, too, you know, our kids deserve good
20 food. And they make good food. And I'm not a big
21 fan of goat, although I eat it. But we've got
22 ungulate issues all over Maui.

23 MS. BARR: Yes. Yes. Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER U'U: I don't know how we
25 create the marriage. I mean, I guess you guys know

1 part of the policy, the -- the -- the option is to
2 -- I guess the Department of Health to slaughter,
3 processing. The pig farms on Maui is -- it's gone
4 away, just FYI. We were -- we were pig farmers
5 growing up, and not much pig farmers anymore, but
6 it's -- it's everybody. When costs go high on the
7 pork products. Then again, we've got issues with
8 deers and a great solution, too, if possible.

9 MS. BASS: I was talking to -- I was
10 talking on -- on that agrivoltaics bill actually,
11 that was in the legislature, we were meeting DBEDT
12 and our partner agency at ADC, there's a lot of
13 interest and support from -- from DBEDT to have a
14 state-funded slaughterhouse, at least, you know, of
15 course for large animals, but small animals too,
16 right. So when we're looking at goat and sheep,
17 right, you know, because those are -- those
18 ungulates are also, like, on these agricultural
19 lands, especially for our, you know, solar energy
20 facilities. So we want to make sure that there's a
21 circularity that the sheep are there, you know, for
22 consumption as well, right, so that, you know,
23 there's circularity in all of this conversation.
24 Yeah.

25 MR. ASUNCION: I think a model too, Lana'i

1 has a mobile slaughterhouse and it's certified, et
2 cetera. So you stamp something.

3 MS. BASS: Oh, we could do --

4 MR. ASUNCION: It could literally be more
5 easily replicated on the neighbor islands, and it
6 can move around, right? You don't have to get it in
7 what area versus, right, just going to the farm or
8 just going to --

9 COMMISSIONER U'U: This part of an
10 incentive process to create that.

11 MS. BASS: Yeah.

12 CHAIR LEE: Second Vice-Chair Kamakea-
13 'Oheho, we know you are an experienced farmer. Is
14 there any mana'o you would like to share with us?

15 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: Mahalo.

16 CHAIR LEE: Are you taking us on a field
17 trip?

18 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: Yeah. I'm
19 taking you on a field trip.

20 I've got to change -- I don't know what's
21 up with my Wi-Fi, so I apologize. Well, there's
22 multiple pinch points when it comes to the entire
23 ecosystem of, you know, our food system, you know.
24 So a lot of those -- those points were discussed
25 here. We can see the trends of the age of food

1 producers, you know, just ever increasing in age and
2 therefore the producer's declining.

3 The -- the narrative, you know -- one of
4 the narratives is food production isn't attractive
5 for the younger generations. You know, that's -- I
6 believe that to be a false narrative because
7 everyone eats. Yeah. And if you simply just remind
8 our keiki where our food comes from, you know, and
9 just remind them because humans pay attention to the
10 things they love. And if they love to eat then, you
11 know, you got to -- you got to participate in the
12 system.

13 So one of the pinch points is slaughter --
14 slaughterhouses. One of the solutions is mobile
15 slaughter homes. But another critical point is that
16 -- the certification of the meat. And having a
17 state-sponsored USDA agent there to certify, you
18 know, the -- the humane gathering of these animals
19 is also a critical pinch point when it comes to the
20 other islands, especially Maui. Maui Nui in
21 general.

22 You know, so, yeah, state sponsored
23 programs would help. Of course, the DOE
24 reintegrating agriculture programs into their system
25 would help, but I want to believe in -- you don't

1 have to believe me, just look at the data. It's
2 really about access to land and water. Much of the
3 agricultural lands that -- that are in production
4 are leased lands. Yeah. The agricultural producers
5 are leasing these lands. And at such a time when,
6 you know, the housing market looks very -- is very
7 attractive, you know, to these large landowners,
8 these -- they often don't renew these leases.

9 You know, and then these lands are -- are
10 then put into the housing market for development.
11 So that's also a huge contributor to the -- you
12 know, the -- the -- the need and our row here as
13 commissioners on a land use commission and trying to
14 balance, you know, the wellbeing of our communities
15 with -- between, you know, food, between water, and
16 also housing, so.

17 I apologize for my Wi-Fi. I'm still in a
18 room alone. I'm -- I'm at home by myself. But,
19 yeah, just mahalo for this conversation. I really
20 appreciate it. A year ago, I think last year, we
21 finally -- so I was a part of a capstone project,
22 did research at Arizona State University and then we
23 just released recently our marine study for -- for
24 food systems. But last year, we -- we released our
25 capstone project on the venison issue in Maui Nui.

1 So if you guys are interested, you can go look it
2 up, just Google ASU venison and you'll find it.

3 Back to you, Chair. Mahalo.

4 CHAIR LEE: Thank you for those great
5 insights, Commissioner Kamakea-'Ohelo. I mean, kind
6 of -- kind of speaks to a lot of the problems that
7 we have.

8 Commissioner Kahele, do you have any
9 questions or comments?

10 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: You know, Chair, I
11 got -- I got one -- one -- maybe one comment or
12 maybe a statement I need to make or maybe a question
13 I need to ask Ms. Bass. You know, it's been in the
14 news, and it's been in several articles in the paper
15 about this big cafeteria that they're building up in
16 -- looking at building up in Wahiawa. So is that
17 construction of that cafeteria is looking at
18 replacing most of the -- the -- the cafeterias
19 that's currently in the public schools, or it's just
20 the centralized areas where the schools are
21 currently located?

22 MS. BASS: Thank you for the question,
23 Commissioner Kahele. I was actually invited to that
24 ground breaking. So that is a very exciting project
25 that is led by the Department of Education, the

1 First Lady, as well as Senator Dela Cruz who's the
2 Senator of the Wahiawa District.

3 And that cafeteria, what I learned was
4 although the -- the groundbreaking was just last
5 month, the intent is to centralize food production,
6 specifically for the north and east O'ahu regions.
7 I hope I got that correct. And later, they will
8 have a secondary cafeteria I believe to serve
9 Leeward and South districts within O'ahu. They also
10 absolutely intend to have regional -- these large
11 regional cafeterias on all the -- the -- the major
12 islands so that they can also distribute to those
13 island regions as well so that there can be more
14 centralization, vocational training, workforce
15 development, as well as just making sure that
16 there's these goals that are met.

17 It was a very exciting groundbreaking. I
18 know that those who participated are very excited
19 about just not only the Wahiawa cafeteria, but how
20 this can continue on for the whole state and the
21 regions that these regionalized cafeterias can
22 serve.

23 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Ms. Bass -- Ms.
24 Bass, just a follow-up question. So this facility
25 -- facility is -- is looking at once it's

1 completely, you know, completed and everything's all
2 set up, is -- is -- is the intent to eliminate all
3 the current cafeterias that's currently in most of
4 the public schools?

5 MS. BASS: No, my understanding is that
6 no, it does not intend to replace the cafeterias of
7 the schools. Rather, it's to partner. So I believe
8 that the mass production would be at these
9 regionalized cafeterias, and you have the culinary
10 students as well as culinary staff of those schools,
11 respective school cafeterias, to start working on
12 more localized school food output and more localized
13 school food cooking.

14 So the larger products of -- of -- of the
15 food would be made at that regionalized cafeteria
16 and then distributed through the network to the more
17 local schools. So this is something we're all co-
18 learning together. I know that the Department of
19 Education is definitely executing this vision with
20 the University of Hawaii and the Leeward Community
21 Campus.

22 So the short answer, Commissioner, is no,
23 I don't believe that it's replacing those
24 cafeterias.

25 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Thank you. Thank

1 you. I wasn't sure. Thanks.

2 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. You know, it
3 really helps enlighten us on policy questions like
4 housing on ag land and stuff like that, right? I
5 have one last question. How do you ensure that this
6 transition is equitable and just and it's not placed
7 on the backs of the poor people to subsidize rich
8 people getting solar panels and tax credits?

9 MS. BASS: Could you clarify the
10 transition, Chair?

11 CHAIR LEE: Well, you know, to make it
12 fair so that, you know, it's not borne on the backs
13 of, like, higher electricity costs or other
14 requirements that the poor, you know, will have to
15 bear versus subsidizing rich people to get tax
16 credits for solar panels, things like that.

17 MS. BASS: Okay. So specific to solar.

18 CHAIR LEE: No, no in -- just -- just in
19 general.

20 MS. BASS: I think that that's -- that
21 comes in when we're working together on forming this
22 policy, you know? There are many policies in which
23 what the HGIA -- I know Leo has more experience in
24 this, but the HGIA of course is working with a
25 mandate to focus on low- and moderate-income solar

1 energy opportunities, right? And so they're working
2 through the GEMS funding as well as with various
3 solar operators.

4 I think, you know, from OPSD's perspective
5 when these proposals and policies come up, equity
6 and just is actually paramount, right, that's --
7 that's really core of urban planning, right? We
8 want to make sure it's fair for everybody, and I
9 think, you know, as us as state workers who, you
10 know, we all want to make sure, right, we're not
11 leaving anybody behind. That's -- that's very much
12 how we -- we're taught here, you know, in DURP and
13 urban planning.

14 But it's something that we want to just
15 make sure that, you know, I mean as things get
16 harder, as -- as things are becoming much more
17 challenging and, you know, there are conversations
18 of, you know, rich and poor and -- and you know,
19 that financial issue becoming more and more distant,
20 right, the loss of the middle class. So many of --
21 so many of us from Hawai'i born and raised here, we
22 know that, you know, we all come from the middle
23 class and -- and even from lower income, right?

24 And so we've got to just kako'o ourselves
25 and the people of Hawai'i. We've got to make sure

1 we are working hard for them and we make sure
2 through those policy proposals and through
3 amendments of course OPSD we always definitely
4 support incentives not just for the rich, right? We
5 want to make sure, right, it's helping everybody.

6 And so, yeah, that -- that's -- that's
7 just a core issue for us, and we want to make sure
8 that these issues of equity and justice are aligned
9 as well as the laws, right? All of these mandates.
10 This is a lot that's mandated on the state, right?
11 Housing, energy, agriculture, climate, conservation.
12 It's a lot, and we only have 4 million acres of
13 land, right?

14 And we have a challenging economy, and the
15 cost of living is high and we have an affordable
16 housing crisis. That's a lot to juggle for all of
17 us as people here let alone policy makers such as
18 you all, right? And so what we aspire as OPSD is to
19 help support those policy makers through
20 suggestions, amendments, and policy, you know,
21 offers so that we can make sure that we keep Hawai'i
22 Hawai'i and as well as meet these goals.

23 CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: One last.

25 CHAIR LESS: Yes, final questions,

1 Commissioners.

2 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Okay. You know, I
3 can't help it. But when I look at these goals here,
4 you know we're talking we're talking about
5 slaughterhouses and stuff. I would say that
6 probably about 90 percent of our cattle goes to the
7 mainland because of the economics. It -- the land
8 here is so expensive, it just costs too much to
9 raise your wean-off or your calf to slaughter and
10 keep it -- keep feeding the grass on your acreage
11 that costs so much money.

12 You'd make a lot more as a rancher raising
13 it to 450 pounds, selling it to a broker, and they
14 ship it to the mainland. That's feasible. You make
15 a lot more money than keeping your steer on your
16 land until slaughter age. So that's a really tough
17 ask for the ranchers to be part of the sustainable
18 program. Keep your cattle here that's grassfed and,
19 you know, fill up those affordable houses. That's
20 number one.

21 The other one is with pigs, sheep, goats
22 -- oh, well, maybe not goats. But if people wanted
23 to start a farm, if you are to purchase your stock
24 locally, it will put you deep in a hole. You can
25 get a way better deal in the mainland to start, but

1 you can't get it here. They have a problem with
2 shipping.

3 You know, they're monopolizing the
4 shipping, and for us to be sustainable and start
5 projects, we're kind of at the mercy of our
6 shippers. We can't even ship horses to the
7 mainland. When we participate in rodeos in the
8 mainland, we have to fly them on the plane which is
9 pretty costly. So you better win some money when
10 you get up there, because you'll be in the hole, and
11 then you've got to fly back when you're done.

12 So a lot of these goals are great, but
13 there's a like Commissioner Kamakea-'Ohelo said,
14 these pinch points are -- a lot of them are out of
15 our hands and the state, you know? So great goals.
16 I think they -- they need to be given attention.
17 And if they're achievable by the dates put forward.

18 But I guess the other part, when we was
19 talking about incentives. For example, on the Big
20 Island, the entire coast has probably -- probably 70
21 percent or higher prime ag land, the old
22 plantations. So all -- including the trees. Over
23 25 years. What's the incentive? Until we get them
24 to allow cattle or farming, I mean, beautiful
25 farmland, and the small portion being farmed by

1 sweet potato farmers with no irrigation. We have
2 enough rainfall. But -- but how do you get these
3 private you've got to get the private guys to buy
4 in, the private landowners.

5 So yeah. A lot of pinch points and a lot
6 of them are out of our hands -- your hands, you
7 know?

8 MS. BASS: Yep.

9 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: So just a comment.

10 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any final
11 questions from Commissioners?

12 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: Yes, me
13 again.

14 CHAIR LEE: Yes, go ahead.

15 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: I don't have
16 a question, but I just wanted to point out, you
17 know, that these are mandates. So they're not
18 necessarily goals, right? So these are mandates
19 that have been passed into law. I just want to make
20 sure that when -- when the state creates these
21 mandates that we don't -- we don't keep creating
22 mandates without teeth. Because laws without teeth
23 have no enforcement, you know?

24 When -- when we need the state to back our
25 ranches, when we need the state to back our swine

1 producers and our egg producers, our poultry
2 producers, you know, and even our flora culture.
3 Yeah. We need the state to resource these mandates,
4 you know?

5 So I don't have a question, I just wanted
6 to make sure that we -- we make this comment,
7 because when -- when these mandates first came out,
8 I was, like, well, how are we going to get there,
9 you know? We're -- you know, as -- as a small
10 producer, because I'm a farmer by trade first, you
11 know? As a small producer, I mean my -- my largest
12 farm that I -- my largest poultry farm that I built
13 was 20,000 egg lands. And even at that scale, it's
14 a small producer. You know, the -- the largest
15 pinch point for us was feed. So even if we try to
16 step up, we don't have the local subsidies to ensure
17 that food production, you know, can meet the mandate
18 in front of us.

19 So, yeah, let's -- let's encourage the
20 state. And then Ms. Bass, if -- if you can, just
21 hold -- hold their feet to the fire and make sure
22 that, yeah, we -- we figure out who's going to go
23 down if the state, you know, ends up not meeting
24 their -- their own mandates. Because I want to --
25 you know, I would love to have names so we can apply

1 pressure where needed. Who's responsible for the
2 state not meeting their own mandates?

3 So mahalo, Chair, for the opportunity to
4 comment.

5 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you. Great
6 comments. Yeah, we need our mandates funded, and
7 maybe the sticks should be aimed at the legislatures
8 then. Oops, I didn't say that.

9 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Chair. Chair. I
10 got -- I got one more question.

11 CHAIR LEE: Go ahead, Commissioner Kahele.

12 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: You know, know that
13 this issue and -- and Ms. Bass had -- had mentioned
14 about this facility that's currently being built up
15 in Wahiawa. How many lunches are we looking at
16 producing after this facility is being -- you know
17 after it gets completed?

18 I believe, you know, there was a number
19 out there that, you know, there's over 100,000
20 school lunches that's needed each day. So, you
21 know, like, I guess my question is this facility is
22 -- is going to be producing how many lunches?
23 Because just really the dollars that's being poured
24 in this facility --

25 MS. BASS: I have a number in my head, but

1 I don't want to misreport to you. So I do
2 apologize. One thing -- one thing where I think
3 this study can come into play is, right, we want to
4 make an effort to align these laws and these
5 mandates, especially with our housing laws and
6 mandates.

7 And so when we're taking a look at what is
8 10 percent, what is 30 percent, right, what is the
9 total to your point, Commissioner, you know, I think
10 that's where I go back to this -- this need for the
11 dashboard and that clarity so that, you know, all
12 the information's available. And so a part of this
13 study when we go and put out the RFP to ask for
14 support services and professional services for this
15 is that we do intend to have that dashboard for
16 clarity so that hopefully -- I'm sorry I can't
17 answer your question today, Commissioner Kahele, but
18 we can work to answer that question with that
19 dashboard and figure out how much is 100 percent,
20 right, and then work backwards, right? How much do
21 we need to -- to -- to feed. I'm sure the
22 Department of Education knows that. Unfortunately,
23 they're not here and I don't know have that
24 information handy. But I hope to have that
25 information for you later.

1 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: No. No. No. You
2 know, that's fine, Ms. Bass. I -- you know, I guess
3 what I was kind of looking at is, you know, whether
4 it's 5 percent, 10 percent in the next several
5 years, are -- are we looking at this goal that we're
6 -- you know, that we're trying to meet or accomplish
7 where it's the -- the food is going to be purchased
8 from local farmers. Is it going to be food that's
9 going to be farmed here? Because that's the goal,
10 right?

11 MS. BASS: That is.

12 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Farm to state local
13 food purchasing. So, you know, I -- I -- you know,
14 I think --that I think may have been the gist of my
15 question. Whether it's 10 percent out of the
16 100,000 that's currently going through the public
17 schools, and how much of that food is going to be
18 coming from local farmers if you've got any idea.

19 MS. BASS: Right. Yeah. So I think
20 that's where we've got to work backwards. And so
21 unfortunately, I don't have that information from
22 the DOE right now. We can get that. And, you know,
23 when -- and just with any kind of planning, you just
24 work backwards. What's a hundred percent, right?
25 By 2050 we have to hit 50 percent, what does that

1 look like? What's the numbers there?

2 By 2030, it's this much percent, right,
3 and so if it's 30 percent of local food produced --
4 or purchased by local farms. So we'll quantify that
5 and I'll work with the Department of Education on
6 that number.

7 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Yeah. You know,
8 thanks, Ms. Bass, because, you know, there was a
9 number put out there, I don't know, several weeks
10 ago that just school lunches at public schools
11 amount to a little over 100,000 each day. So, you
12 know, I was just kind of curious. Thank you.

13 MS. BASS: Yep. Yep.

14 CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
15 Kahele.

16 Staff and Executive Officer, do you have
17 any questions for Ms. Bass?

18 Okay. Last call for Commissioners, any
19 final questions?

20 Yes, Commissioner U'u?

21 COMMISSIONER U'U: I know now they're
22 looking at for the large landholders modified
23 mitigation plans. And a lot -- a lot of large
24 landowners are concerned about the process because
25 it might be costly to own large lands. And at the

1 same time, they're trying to farm or sustain certain
2 things, and the ungulates decreasing or they're
3 losing revenue on the -- the daily process. They
4 estimate about 2.1 million they lose annually.

5 So you know, you get the mitigation, the
6 ungulate effects, and -- and you come with the dry
7 spells of water, the effects of what happens to
8 their land. I'm just hoping there's a carrot to
9 waive, because I really want them to be successful
10 in farming like was -- was mentioned by Myles. But
11 that's -- I think that's the way we have to do --
12 make it somehow. Sometimes -- not agencies,
13 sometimes the state gets in the way at times. It
14 makes it a little difficult, but I get it to a
15 degree.

16 But I -- I meet with farmers on the
17 island, the large landowners and they all try to do
18 their best, but it's very hard. So we've got to
19 create that partnership with them. You know, I like
20 -- I like to eat good food too, right? And -- and
21 our kids got to. So I don't -- I don't know what
22 the thought process is, but as we are, we are losing
23 an economic loss for those people when you add in
24 the -- the -- the wildfire, what's coming. Mitigate
25 and maintain your large landholders, that's all our

1 concern that adds to already existing, you know,
2 losses that they're -- they're having annually. So
3 I don't know, hopefully you guys have a magic wand.
4 Is that a real thing? And get some -- and -- and I
5 like what Kamakea 'Ohelo said. It's mandates right?
6 So good luck. I -- I wish you guys success.

7 MS. BASS: Mahalo.

8 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. We'll now open a
9 second round of public testimony for comments only.
10 So Ms. Kwan, are there any folks wishing to comment?

11 MS. KWAN: Seeing none in the Q&A feature,
12 Chair.

13 CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right. Well then,
14 Ms. Bass, thank you for your concise and very
15 informative presentation. As you can tell, we are
16 here to help.

17 MS. BASS: Thank you.

18 CHAIR LEE: And thank you, Mr. Asuncion,
19 for your remarks and your comments and I know you
20 have a lot of experience in this area, so thank you
21 very much. All right. We appreciate it.

22 MS. BASS: Thank you so much for this
23 opportunity. Mahalo, Chair.

24 CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Mr. Asuncion.

25 MR. ASUNCION: Thank you.

1 CHAIR LEE: All right. Thank you very
2 much. We'll now excuse you so you can have a local
3 lunch and we'll -- we'll be hearing from you again
4 in the future, I'm sure.

5 MS. BASS: Thank you. Yes.

6 CHAIR LEE: All right. So we're going to
7 move to agenda item number 3, the adoption of the
8 minutes. This next order of business is for the
9 approval of the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes.

10 Ms. Kwan, has any written testimony been
11 received on those minutes?

12 MS. KWAN: No, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. Are there
14 any members of the public wishing to testify on this
15 item?

16 MS. KWAN: Seeing none in the Q&A feature,
17 Chair.

18 CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

19 Commissioners, are there any corrections
20 or comments on the minutes?

21 Okay. Hearing none, is there a motion now
22 to approve those minutes?

23 COMMISSIONER U'U: Motion to approve.

24 CHAIR LEE: It's been moved by
25 Commissioner U'u. Is there a second?

1 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Second.

2 CHAIR LEE: Seconded by Commissioner
3 Miyasato. And since this is the first vote of the
4 day, Mr. Orodunker, will you please conduct a roll
5 call vote?

6 MR. ORODENKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
7 motion is to approve the -- the minutes.

8 Commissioner U'u?

9 COMMISSIONER U'U: Aye.

10 MR. ORODENKER: Commissioner Miyasato?

11 COMMISSIONER MIYASATO: Aye.

12 MR. ORODENKER: Commissioner Kamakea-
13 'Ohelo?

14 COMMISSIONER KAMAKEA-'OHELO: Aye.

15 MR. ORODENKER: Commissioner Kahele?

16 COMMISSIONER KAHELE: Aye.

17 MR. ORODENKER: Commissioner Carr Smith?

18 COMMISSIONER CARR SMITH: Aye.

19 MR. ORODENKER: Commissioners Yamane and
20 Hayashida are absent.

21 Chair Lee?

22 CHAIR LEE: Aye.

23 MR. ORODENKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 The motion passes unanimously with six
25 votes.

1 CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Orodenker.

2 The next agenda item is number 4 for the
3 tentative meeting schedule.

4 MR. ORODENKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
5 March 25th, we will be on Maui for the Pu'unene
6 Quarry motion to amend. On April 8th, we will be at
7 the O'ahu Airport for the Haseko motion to amend.
8 On April 22nd, we will be on Kona for the Hono'ipu
9 Hideaway remand. Tentatively we have scheduled on
10 May 13th a solar special permit assuming that is
11 filed by 5/4. And on the 14th, we have Kaua'i --
12 also on Kaua'i, A89-636, Grove Farm motion to amend,
13 but that is also pending the motion filing.

14 CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
15 Orodenker.

16 Commissioners, do you have any questions
17 on the tentative meeting schedule?

18 Okay. Seeing none. Thank you very much.
19 The final agenda item is for adjournment. This
20 concludes our meeting. Is there any further
21 business to discuss?

22 Okay. Seeing none, then this meeting is
23 adjourned

24 (WHEREUPON, the HAWAII STATE LAND USE
25 COMMITTEE MEETING concluded at 11:10 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Elizabeth Rovee, do hereby certify that the proceeding named herein was professionally transcribed on the date set forth in the certificate herein; that I transcribed all testimony adduced and other oral proceedings had in the foregoing matter; and that the foregoing transcript pages constitute a full, true, and correct record of such testimony adduced and oral proceeding had and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of April, 2026.



Elizabeth Rovee