

# Introduction to the Hawai'i State Planning Act Update

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MAY 29, 2025  
TASK FORCE MEETING #1

- Introduction to the Hawai'i State Planning Act Update
  - May 29, 2025
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## Presentation Overview

	Overview of the Hawai'i State Planning Act
	Revisions
	Administrative Authority
	Present-Day Planning Ecosystem
	Updating the Hawai'i State Planning Act: Phase I
	Updating the Hawai'i State Planning Act: Phase II
	Phase II Milestones & Next Steps

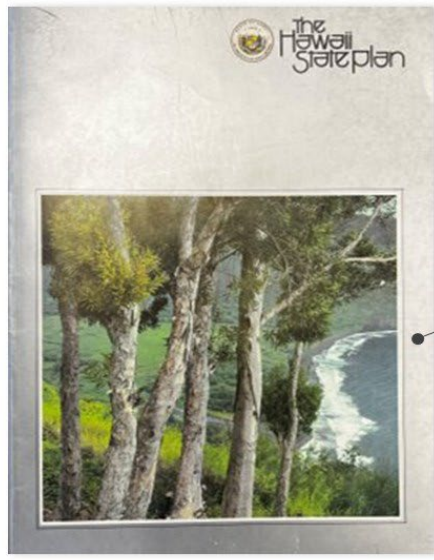
- This presentation will discuss:
  - An overview of the Hawaii State Planning Act, HRS 226;
  - Key revisions that have been made over time;
  - OPSD's role in administering HRS 226;
  - The present-day planning ecosystem, both directly and indirectly related to HRS 226;
  - The findings of a 2018 report that initiated the first phase of this update process;
  - The charge of this Task Force to continue the second phase of the update process; and
  - Laying out some of the next steps for the update process.

# Overview

- Overview

## Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE



The Hawaii State Plan Booklet, 1978

The Hawai'i State Plan is a broad statute aimed at setting **long-range goals, objectives, policies, and guidelines** for the State of Hawai'i

- The Hawai'i State Plan is a broad, long-range policy document aimed at setting the standards and policies to coordinate the activities, programs, and decisions made by State and county agencies and policymakers, to address statewide problems and needs and guide Hawai'i's future.
- The Hawai'i State Planning Act (HRS 226) was signed into law in 1978 as Act 100, to codify the Hawai'i State Plan.

## Overview

### INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

#### FOREWORD

The passage of The Hawaii State Plan by the Ninth State Legislature, and my signing of the bill into law on May 22, 1978, were significant events in Hawaii's history. Hawaii by these actions became the first State in the Nation to enact a comprehensive State plan setting forth goals, objectives, and policies to guide it into the future. I consider this new law, now Act 100 of the 1978 Session, second in importance only to our State Constitution.

The Hawaii State Plan is a logical development growing from earlier pioneering by the State of Hawaii which has given our Islands an international reputation for planning innovation—particularly for our State Land Use Law and subsequent refinements of that law. This reflects a maturity and high degree of professionalism in both our Legislative and Executive branches of government, which in turn reflect the practical wisdom and broad political experience of Hawaii's people.

The Hawaii State Plan was drafted with utmost concern for the wishes and diverse needs of Hawaii's people, and with a proper respect for the State's limited resources. Hawaii—our people and land, our surrounding waters and air—is a unique place on the globe. It is a very fragile island community in which great care must be taken to protect priceless values.

After The Hawaii State Plan sets forth Hawaii's goals, objectives, and policies to provide general direction for our State, it further details priority directions which indicate areas of Statewide concern meriting our immediate attention. A system for coordinating the actions of State and County agencies to implement the plan also is established. Through this system, The Hawaii State Plan acts as an umbrella document. State functional plans and programs, and County general plans and development plans, fall under this umbrella and further define and implement the State Plan.



A Policy Council composed of public members as well as State and County Government representatives will discuss issues and facilitate resolution of conflicts. An annual review and provisions for amendment assure that The Hawaii State Plan will be continuously in harmony with the needs and desires of our people and that activities will be monitored to insure that the plan is being carried out.

Hawaii's resources are limited, so the plan's priority directions and system of implementation will enable us to achieve more efficiently our goals and objectives.

The aspirations of the people of Hawaii are enshrined in The Hawaii State Plan. An extensive public participation effort was conducted to involve people throughout the State in the plan's formulation. Active participation by hundreds of our citizens has marked the three-year development of this document. Provisions for continued public contributions have been incorporated into the law.

It is this spirit of generous public participation and cooperation which must continue as The Hawaii State Plan is implemented. In this way, we all will share in the privilege of working together for a better future for our State.

*George R. Ariyoshi*  
GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI  
Governor of Hawaii

Forward from The Hawaii State Plan Booklet, 1985

“

The passage of the Hawai'i State Plan by the Ninth State Legislature, and my signing of the bill into law on May 22, 1978, were significant events in Hawai'i's history. Hawai'i by these actions became the first state in the nation to enact a comprehensive State plan setting forth goals, objectives, and policies to guide it into the future.

**I consider this new law, now Act 100 of the 1978 session, second in importance only to our State Constitution...** ”

- Governor Ariyoshi

- The creation of the State Plan was a significant event in Hawai'i's history because it was the first plan in the country that outlined a state's long-term goals and policies. It was even more unique because it took a broad approach to considering the needs of Hawai'i's people, in balance with the State's limited resources.
- The Plan stemmed from interest in further defining the State's land use policies beyond the Land Use Law of 1961 and the Environmental Impact Law of 1974. The Plan was intended to improve coordination among government agencies to implement actions that were rooted in public input and the long-term goals of the state.
- Governor Ariyoshi, who signed the State Planning Act into law, considered it “second in importance only to our State Constitution” because it not only mirrored the aspirations of Hawai'i's residents, but also established a system intended to carry out the Plan's implementation.

## The Plan is More Than Mere Words...

“ The State Plan is apt to have a force beyond the force of law. It will be recognized as a document, tested in dozens of meetings, many hearings, and finally by legislative enactment, as **a compilation of the goals and aspirations that the people of Hawai‘i agree on.**

...But it seems to us a significant base point from which to try to direct and shape Hawai‘i’s future. **It is one that can be revised as experience develops.**

– *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, June 5, 1978

”

- At the time of enactment, the Star Bulletin stated that “The Plan is More Than Mere Words” and that it would likely have a significant effect on Hawai‘i’s future.
- The Star Bulletin noted the scrutiny of dozens of public meetings and subsequent legislative hearings that went into developing the Plan, as well as the system of checks and balances that emerged to coordinate economic, social, and environmental goals.
- Notably, the Star Bulletin foresaw that the Plan was dynamic and should be revised over time “as experience develops.”

## ...Built on a Comprehensive Planning Process



- Extensive efforts were made over the course of many years to ensure that the final plan was well-informed and backed by data and public opinion. **A total of 9 different methods** were used to gather different types of information.
- To highlight a few of these methods:
  - **Technical studies** were focused on gathering and analyzing data on the **economy, population, environmental concerns, facility systems, and socio-cultural advancement** to clarify current problems, issues, trends and opportunities.
  - **Issue papers**, which drew conclusions based on the technical studies, focused on evaluating implications related to **economic stability, agriculture, limited physical resources, housing, social issues, and population issues**.
  - **Household surveys** were also conducted through door-to-door in-person interviews, reaching **1,600 households** across the state. Resident attitudes were surveyed on numerous statewide and community issues including **population, economic development, housing, environmental, and social concerns**. Newspaper articles and a panel discussion on public television were also utilized to stimulate discussion and foster informed public contributions to the plan.

## Trends & Problems (at the time)



Population



Economy



Physical Environment



Facility Systems



Socio-Cultural Advancement

- The State Plan was born out of the desire to more effectively address trends and problems facing the state through a more coordinated approach.
- Some of these underlying issues included:
  - Rapid population growth and the rise of the visitor population, which caused competition between visitor groups and residents over shoreline areas, and increased demand on resources that our infrastructure couldn't support.
  - With the projected growth in the resident population, there were major concerns raised around urban sprawl and growth encroachments on agricultural lands.
  - However, at this time, plantations were also beginning to dwindle and become a less reliable source of employment for Hawaii's residents, so there was a great need for economic development initiatives to stimulate new industry growth and job opportunities.
  - There was also the 1978 Constitutional Convention (Con-Con), which created a lot of momentum around social aspirations and issues such as public health and affordable housing, as well as cultural preservation and advancement.

## Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

# General Framework



Infographic from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

- To address the major issues facing the state, the State Plan was organized using a 3-part framework:
  - **Part 1**, the overall theme, goals, objectives, and policies;
  - **Part 3**, priority guidelines to provide a more immediate focus on addressing major statewide problems; and
  - **Part 2**, a series of interconnected state and county plans to coordinate the implementation of programs aligned with Parts 1 and 3.
- Together, these three parts were intended to work together as a cohesive planning system.

**PART I**

**Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies**

*HRS §226-3*



Individual and Family Self-Sufficiency



Socio and Economic Mobility



Community or Social Well-Being

- Under Part 1, the **Overall Theme** encompasses three values to be upheld throughout the rest of the chapter.
- These values are:
  - **Individual and family self sufficiency,**
  - **Social and economic mobility,** and
  - **Community or social well-being.**

**PART I**

**Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies**

*HRS §226-4*

- **A strong, viable economy,**  
characterized by stability, diversity, and growth, that enables the fulfillment of the needs and expectations of Hawai'i's present and future generations
  - **A desired physical environment,**  
characterized by beauty, cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people
  - **Physical, social, and economic well-being,**  
for individuals and families in Hawai'i that nourishes a sense of community responsibility, of caring, and of participation in community life
- 
- The goals reflect aspirational end-states and describe the desired economic, environmental, and social conditions to be sought for Hawai'i's people.
  - These goals include:
    - **A strong, viable economy,**
    - **A desired physical environment,** and
    - **Physical, social, and economic well-being.**

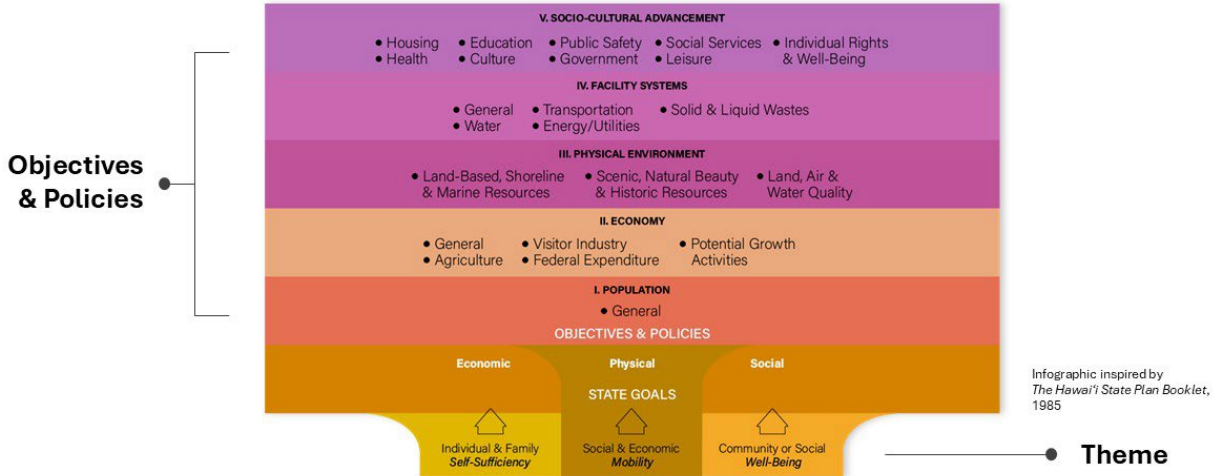
## Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

### PART I

# Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies

HRS §§226-5 through 226-27



- Objectives and Policies are described in chapter 226 sections 5 through 27, and cover the areas of **population, the economy, the physical environment, facility systems, and socio-cultural advancement**, which mirrors the trends and problems of the time reflected on the earlier slide.
- The objectives represented steps towards reaching related goals, and policies were courses of action to achieve related objectives.
- This diagram shows the specific focus areas that the original objectives and policies addressed. It also demonstrates the care that went into incorporating values into the state plan.

## **PART III** **Priority Guidelines**

*HRS §§226-101 through 226-109*

### **Purpose**

Establish priority areas and actions/ guidelines to address statewide concerns requiring immediate attention

### **Initial Priorities (1978)**

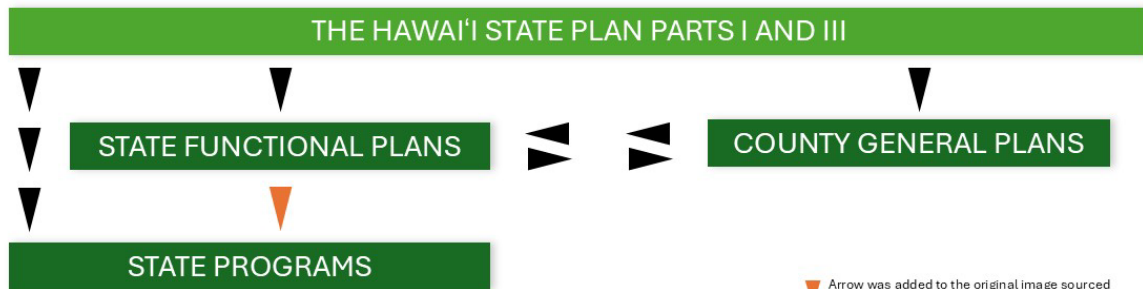
- Economic
- Population Growth and Distribution
- Land Resources

- Part 3 is being introduced before Part 2 because it provides more information on the content of the state plan, whereas Part 2 describes the implementation mechanism.
- Part 3 was intended to identify priority areas and actions to address immediate issues of statewide concern. These priority guidelines focused on statewide, interrelated problems, as opposed to specific functional areas reflected in Part 1.
- The priority guidelines initially identified in 1978 were for addressing immediate needs related to the Economy, Population Growth and Distribution, and Land Resources.

## PART II Planning Coordination & Implementation

*HRS §§226-51 through 226-65*

**Purpose:** Establish a statewide planning system to coordinate and guide all major state and county activities and to implement the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines



Arrow was added to the original image sourced from *The Hawaii State Plan Booklet* (1985)

- Part 2 describes the implementation mechanism for the State Plan, which includes **State Functional Plans, County General Plans and Regional Development Plans**, and **State Programs**. The State Plan intended for these implementation components to work together as an effective system to carry out the plan.
- The **Functional Plans** were intended to provide more detail on the State Plan by addressing specific topic areas on a Statewide basis, for instance: **agriculture, conservation lands, education, energy, higher education, health, historic preservation, housing, recreation, tourism, and transportation**. The responsibility of preparing and updating a given functional plan originally, and continues to, lie with the state agency primarily responsible for that functional area, stated in HRS 226-55(a).
- The **County General Plans and Regional Development Plans** indicate desired population and physical development patterns for and within each county. These plans are also meant to address the unique problems and needs of each County and developed with input from both state and county agencies, as well as the general public.
- **State Programs** were then expected to implement projects and activities to carry out the provisions of the State Plan, in conformance with the implementing actions in the State Functional Plans.
- The plans under Part 2, as well as state programs, were expected to be in conformance with parts 1 and 3 of the State Plan. Furthermore, the plans were all intended to inform one another.

# Revisions

- Revisions

## State Plan Revised (1986)

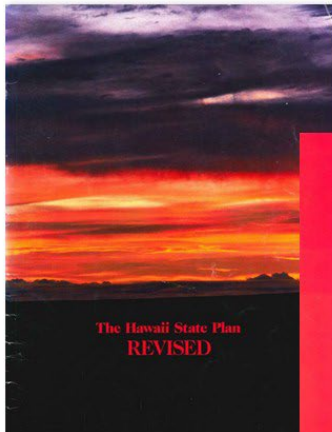
- The 1986 revision to the State Plan was the result of a two-year review process with the goal of reflecting changes in public priorities
  - Two public surveys and a new set of technical studies informed the update process
- 
- Following a two-year comprehensive review process, the State Plan was updated in 1986 – the first and only extensive update since the plan’s enactment. Additions have been made, but no major update has been initiated since then.
  - This update was largely driven by a **shift in public opinion towards economic and social concerns**:
    - For instance, in the first State Plan survey in 1976, 81% of the public rated “clean air and water” as “very important.” But by 1981, this issue was overshadowed by concerns over crime, housing, education, and jobs.
  - The update process entailed two additional public surveys and new technical studies on the physical environment, the economy, population, socio-cultural advancement, and facility systems.

## State Plan Revised (1986)

- To name a few, the revision added policies that aimed to:
    - Improve the business climate
    - Call for research, education, and training programs “to attract and develop economic activities of benefit to Hawai‘i”
    - Make “marginal” or “non-essential” agricultural lands available for “appropriate urban uses”
  - Education, Crime and Criminal Justice, and Affordable Housing were added as Priority Guidelines
- 
- The resulting revisions enacted policies to:
    - Help improve the business climate;
    - Strengthen research, education, and training programs to diversify Hawaii’s economy; and
    - Expand allowable uses of agricultural lands.
  - To address the concerns raised from the public sentiment surveys, education, crime and criminal justice, and affordable housing were also added to the priority guidelines under Part 3.

## Revisions

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Front cover of *The Hawai'i State Plan Booklet*, revised in 1986



Back cover

“

Following a two-year comprehensive review process prescribed by law, the Legislature revised the Hawai'i State Plan. **These changes reflected the changes in public priorities over nearly a decade.** The process of the Plan's revision—and the revisions themselves—demonstrated an important point: **the Plan is flexible...**

The State Plan is a dynamic document. **It is meant to be reviewed and revised over time.** ”

- *The Hawai'i State Plan Booklet (Revised)*

- In sum, the 1986 revision process demonstrated the **need for the State Plan to be periodically reviewed and updated** to reflect changes in public sentiment and priorities.
- It also successfully demonstrated the flexibility and dynamic nature of the State Plan that was intended in the original design of Chapter 226.

## POST-1986 REVISIONS

# Trends Driving Changes to Parts I & III

- Economic Change
    - Information Technology and the Internet
    - Emerging Industries
  - Social Justice
    - Affordable Housing
    - Health Disparities
  - Climate Change
    - Renewable Energy
    - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 
- Since 1986, no other comprehensive revisions have been made to HRS 226, though it's been edited over time.
  - These edits have largely been driven by shifts in economic, social, and environmental trends.
  - Changes to the objectives, policies, and priority guidelines related to the **economy** were largely based on the onset of information technology and the age of the Internet, as well as emergent industries.
  - Changes to **social** objectives, policies, and priority guidelines largely stemmed from inequities observed in housing and health.
  - Growing concern over **climate change** also drove revisions to increase renewable energy and address greenhouse gas emissions.
  - These changes were reflected in revisions to both Parts 1 and 3.
  - Note: During the presentation, it was suggested that diaspora be added as an additional trend driving changes to Parts I & III.

## POST-1986 REVISIONS

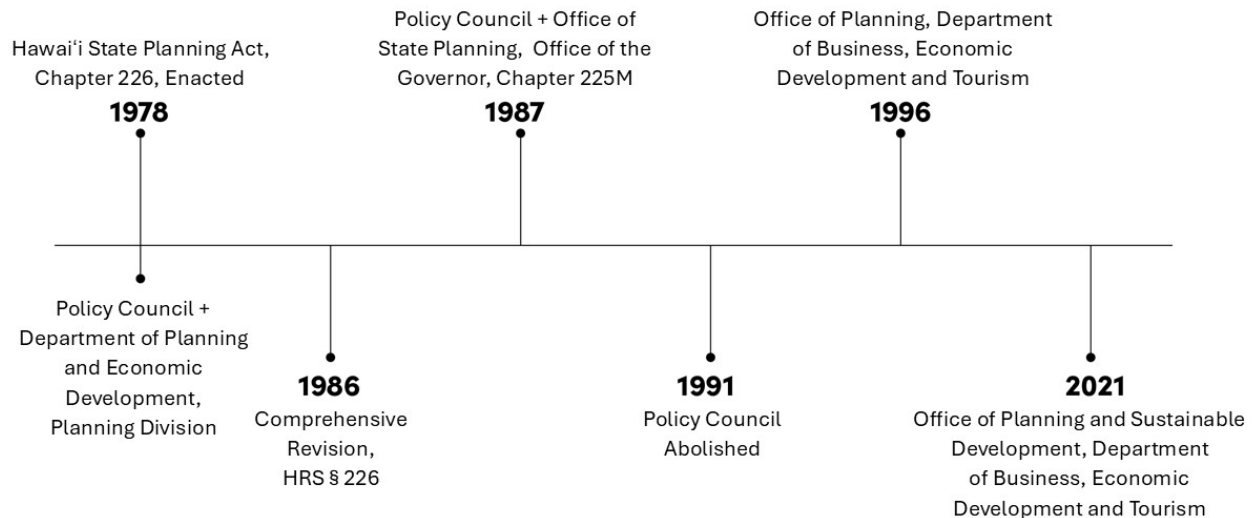
# Key Changes to Part II

- Strategic Planning
  - Functional Plans
    - **1991 (2001):** Guidelines to be developed by Department of Budget and Finance (later the Office of Planning)
    - **2017:** Advisory committee to be convened by lead state agency; statutory boards permitted
  - Additions
    - **2016:** Hawai'i interagency council for transit-oriented development and strategic plan
    - **2019:** Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan
  - Administrative Authority
- 
- There were also many revisions made to Part 2:
    - **Strategic planning** was explicitly added as an implementation mechanism to identify and analyze significant issues, problems, and opportunities confronting the state.
    - In 1991, the role of functional plans was refined to guide the allocation of resources, versus guiding implementation more generally. Further, the Department of Budget and Finance was to develop guidelines that would inform the preparation and revision of functional plans. This responsibility was later shifted to the Office of Planning in 2001.
    - In 2017, state agencies responsible for preparing and updating functional plans were authorized to convene the affiliated advisory committee—instead of the governor—and further, could utilize pre-existing statutory boards meeting the specified requirements.
    - Additions were also made to Part 2, notably the addition of the **Hawaii interagency council for TOD** in 2016, and in 2019, the **Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan** was added to serve as the state's climate adaptation and sustainability action plan.

# Administrative Authority

- Administrative Authority

## Evolution of Administrative Authority



- The Hawai'i State Plan, as codified in HRS 226 in 1978, was first established and carried forward by the **Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Economic Development**. The Department convened a **Policy Council** that was the administering authority for HRS 226.
- Following the 1986 revision to the Hawai'i State Plan, in 1987 the **Office of State Planning (OSP)** was established under HRS 225M and **placed in the Office of the Governor**. OSP replaced the Department of Planning and Economic Development in convening and supporting the Policy Council.
- In 1991, the State Legislature **abolished the Policy Council** and authorized the Office of State Planning—still under the Office of the Governor—to administer HRS 226.
- Then, in 1996, OSP was renamed the **Office of Planning (OP)** and was moved to **DBEDT** as an administratively attached agency.
- In 2021, **OP was renamed the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development** to better reflect prioritization of sustainability principles in informing the state's long-term development. **OPSD is the present administering authority for the Hawai'i State Planning Act under HRS 226.**

## Administrative Authority

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

### “The office shall provide technical assistance in administering this chapter.” – HRS § 226-53



**Advise**  
on conflicts among the State Planning Act, functional plans, county plans, and State programs



**Review**  
and evaluate the State Planning Act and recommend amendments



**Advise**  
on proposed plans, programs, projects, and regulatory activities (in relation to the State Plan)



**Analyze**  
existing policies, operations, laws, rules, and practices (in relation to the State Plan)



**Assess**  
CIP proposals for consistency with the State Planning Act



**Identify**  
key issues and formulate strategies



**Conduct**  
studies on policy issues affecting statewide growth and development



**Work**  
with agencies to maintain consistent and reliable statewide datasets and projections



**Report**  
on emerging issues to guide updates to the State Plan and functional plans

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- Specifically, HRS 226-53 details OPSD’s duties to **provide technical assistance in administering the Chapter**.
- This includes **advising the Governor, State and County agencies, and the legislature** on aligning the various plans, policies, programs, and projects including CIP with Chapter 226, as well as **conducting reviews of the Chapter** and recommending amendments.

## **OPSD Statutory Authorities**

- **Chapter 4E,**  
Board on Geographic Names
  - **Chapter 205,**  
Land Use Commission
  - **Chapter 205A,**  
Coastal Zone Management
  - **Chapter 225M,**  
State Planning  
(enabling statute)
  - **Chapter 225P,**  
Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation  
and Adaptation Initiative
  - **Chapter 226,**  
Hawai'i State Planning Act
  - **Chapter 341,**  
Environmental Advisory Council
  - **Chapter 343,**  
Environmental Impact Statements
- 
- Chapter 226 is one of OPSD's eight statutory authorities, all of which complement one another.
  - This means that OPSD is also well-positioned from a programmatic standpoint to support this Task Force in recommending comprehensive updates to the State Plan.

# Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

- Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

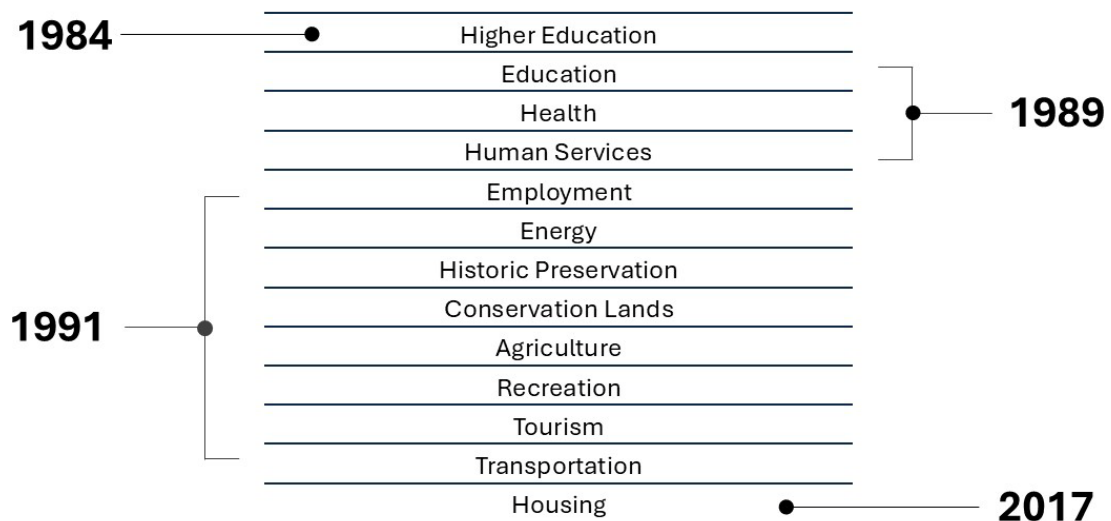
## Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

HRS § 226-52 State Planning System	Other Chapter 226 Plans	Complementary Plans
State Functional Plans	Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan	Departmental / Programmatic Plans
County General Plans	Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan	Federal Funding Plans
Community Sustainability / Development Plans		Special Purpose Plans
State Programs		

- While the present-day planning ecosystem largely derives from Part 2 of Chapter 226, there are numerous other complementary plans and planning systems that exist outside of Chapter 226, some of which are shown in the rightmost column and include:
  - Department and program-specific plans;
  - Plans that are the basis for federal block grants and competitive funding programs; and
  - Other **special purpose plans** including those assigned by the legislature.
- This is not an exhaustive list.

## State Functional Plans Prepared or Updated

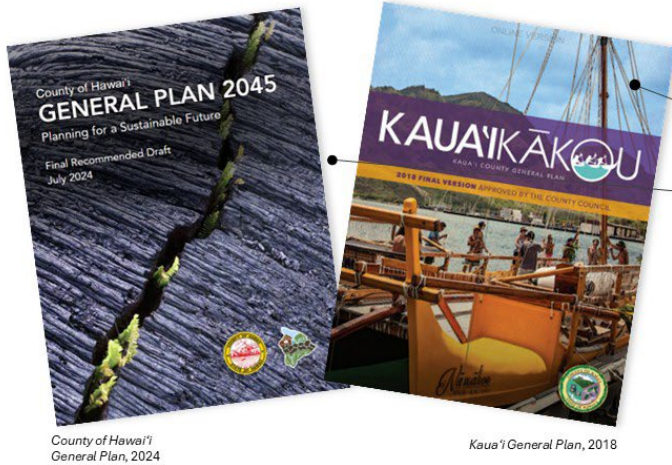


- Since enactment of the State Plan, **13 Functional Plans** have been prepared by the state agency primarily responsible for a given functional area.
- The table shows when each Functional Plan was last touched. Many have not been updated since their original preparation and have become obsolete for state and county agencies.

## Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

# County Plans Under Chapter 226



- County of Hawai'i General Plan
- Hawai'i Community Development Plans
- Maui General Plan 2030
- Maui County Community Plans
- Kaua'i General Plan
- Kaua'i Community Plans
- O'ahu General Plan
- O'ahu Development and Sustainable Communities Plans

- County Plans under Chapter 226 include County General Plans and Community Development or Sustainability plans for regions within each county.
- The County General Plans and the Regional Plans have a more direct effect on land use regulations and are regularly updated by the counties. By ordinance, these plans are subject to review and approval by the respective County Planning Commissions and County Councils.

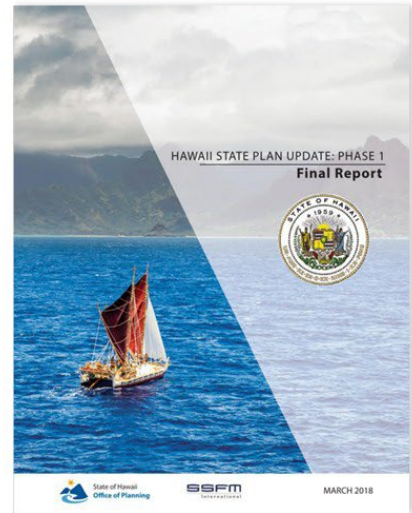
## Examples of Complementary Plans



- The Department of Hawaiian Homelands planning system:
  - General Plan
  - Island Plans
  - Regional Plans
  - Program Plans
  - Special Area Plans
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- O‘ahu Regional Transportation Plan
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- Though not a direct outcome of the State Planning Act, there are various complementary plans and planning systems that have emerged over the years.
- For example, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) has its own planning system consisting of a general plan, island plans, regional plans, program plans, and special area plans. This planning system was developed to mainly address land use issues within the homestead areas, and additionally includes other important topics like economic development, culture, and health. The plans are developed through beneficiary engagement and approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission.
- Other examples of complementary plans include the **State and County Hazard Mitigation Plans, O‘ahu Regional Transportation Plan, and the State and County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies**. These plans are all required to access federal funding.
- This is not an exhaustive list but demonstrates that there are many other plans that operate independently of Chapter 226. This was one of many findings captured in a 2018 report, which lays the groundwork for this Task Force.

# State Plan Update: Phase I



- State Plan Update: Phase I
- Leo Asuncion, former Director of OPSD and current Chair at the Public Utilities Commission, presented on Phase I of the State Plan Update (2018). This report was completed while he was the Director.
- This was the first step towards a major update to the State Plan since 1986.

**Phase I Update**

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## Listing of Plans Related to Hawai'i State Functional Plans - Examples

Functional Plan	Year	New Plan(s)	Year
Agriculture	1991	Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Strategic Plan (DOA)	2008
Conservation Lands	1991	Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement Strategic Plan, 2009-2014 (DOCARE)	2013
Education	1989	Hawai'i State Department of Education and Board of Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (DOE)	2016
Employment	1991	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (DLIR)	2009
Health	1989	Hawai'i Department of Health Strategic Plan 2015-2018 (DOH)	2016
Higher Education	1984	The University of Hawai'i Strategic Direction, 2015-2021 (UH-BOR)	2015
Historic Preservation	1991	Hawai'i State Historic Preservation Plan October 2012 to October 2017 (SHPD)	2015
Housing	n/a	State Housing Functional Plan (DBEDT-HHFDC)	2017
Human Services	1989	Hawai'i State Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division Strategic Plan, Fiscal Year 2015-2017 (DOH-DDD)	2015
Recreation	1991	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (DLNR-DSP)	2015
Tourism	1991	Hawai'i Tourism Authority Five-Year Strategic Plan	2015
Transportation	1991	Hawai'i Intelligent Transportation System Strategic Plan 2016-2025 (HDOT)	2015

- What motivated the update was a clear disconnect between the functional plans and the actual plans that departments and other agencies use and have used. This is seen across all functional plan areas.

## Phase I Update

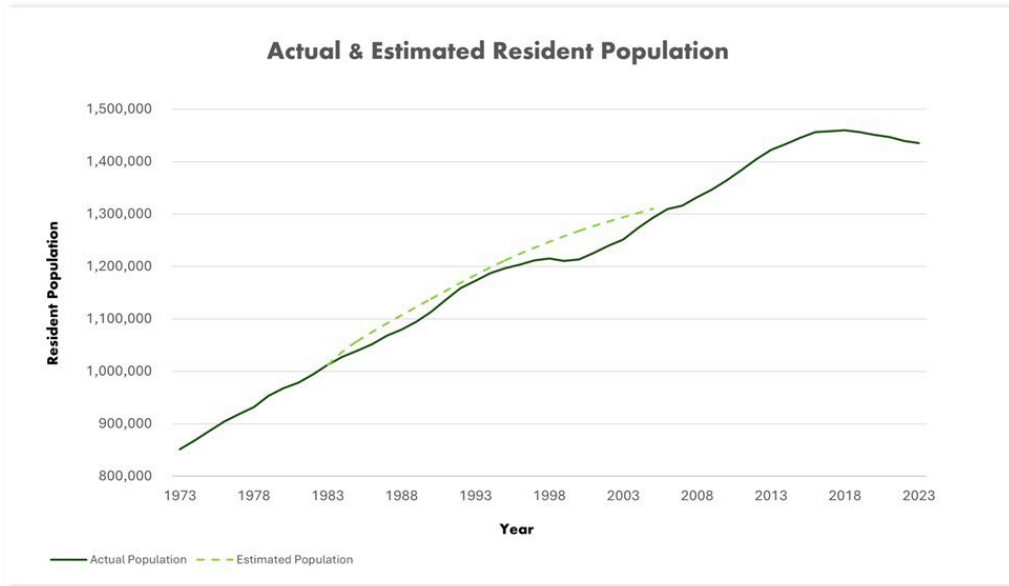
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### Listing of Plans without a Related Functional Plan - Examples

Category	New Plan(s)	Year
Climate Change	A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii (ORMP Working Group & UH)	2009
Coastal Resources	Section 309 Assessment and Strategy FY 2016-2020 (DBEDT-Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program)	2015
Water	State Water Projects Plan (CRWM)	2017
Wildlife	Hawaii's State Wildlife Action Plan (DLNR-DOFAW)	2015
Biosecurity/Invasive Species	Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (DLNR & DOA)	2016
Emergency Preparedness	State of Hawaii Emergency Operations Plan, <i>Basic Plan</i>	2017

## Phase I Update

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*The Hawai'i State Plan: Population 1984*, p. 56/158. DBEDT-READ: State of Hawai'i Data Book Timeseries: Population Based on U.S. Census and DBEDT data.

- When the State Plan was revised, the plan was based on projections through 2005. As a result, development that is based on the State Plan is being guided by outdated context.

## Phase I Update

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### 1980s

#### “PRIMARY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES”

- Visitor Industry
- Federal Expenditures
- Sugar
- Pineapple
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing

### 2018

#### “TOP INDUSTRIES”\*

*\*tourism is not categorized  
as a single industry*

- Government
- Real Estate
- Accommodation  
& Food Services
- Healthcare & Social  
Assistance
- Retail Trade

Source: *The Hawai'i State Plan: Economy* (1984); [Hawaii Economic Structure Analysis Using the Industry Level Gross Domestic Product Data](#) (2018)

- Since the last revision (1986), there have been significant changes in Hawai'i's economic, physical, and social conditions, technology, and the global marketplace, as well as major changes in the constraints and opportunities the State faces as we plan for the future.
- This comparison of top economic activities and industries reveals that the language in the State Plan has become very out-of-date and that the State's economic composition has changed drastically. The plan has not yet been updated to reflect this change.

## Phase I Update

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

# Overview



Hawai'i State Plan Update: Phase 1

### ***The Phase I Update provides analysis on:***

- How the current plan is being used
- How the plan aligns with current emerging issues across the state
- How effectively the plan addresses local needs and provides direction for the future of the State of Hawai'i

- Recognizing the need for an update, the Hawai'i State Plan Update Phase I report was completed by the Office of Planning in 2018.

## **Phase I Update: Approach**

**Phase I of the State Plan update focused on data collection and review including:**

- Requests for planning documents
  - Questionnaires to all coordinating agencies
- 
- Phase 1 of the update involved:
    - An inventory and review of all state department plans, strategic plans, functional plans, and capital improvement plans
    - Identifying common themes and policy directions
    - Developing findings on the overall status of the plans and preparing findings and recommendations for updating the State Planning Act
  - This was completed through requests for planning documents and the distribution of a questionnaire to all coordinating agencies.

## **Phase I Update: Stakeholder Questionnaire**

- What is the plan adoption process for your department plans?
  - Briefly describe how your department uses the current Hawai'i State Plan?
  - Do you anticipate a need to utilize any new technologies by your division / department? If so, what are they?
  - What current department plans, strategic plans, Functional Plans, and / or capital improvement plans does your department have?
  - Are there any ongoing or planned updates to these plans?
  - Are any of your plans tied to federal funding requirements or state funding requirements? If so, which ones and which fund?
- 
- The questionnaire asked the following questions to all of the coordinating agencies to gauge their use of the Hawaii State Plan and how other plans were being developed/used.

## **Phase I Update: Organization**

### **The Phase I report includes:**

- An inventory, review, and status of all State department plans, strategic plans, Functional Plans, and capital improvement plans
- A review of the plans' common themes and policy directions, and interconnectivity and opportunities
- Findings and recommendations

## Common Policies & Interconnectivity Issues

- Almost no policies are shared by one or more of the plans
  - Policy types commonly found include ones that:
    - Address current conditions
    - Address large scale security and threats
    - Seek research to identify new solutions
    - Use education to develop the workforce necessary to address Hawai'i's needs
    - Develop information technology
    - Inform and engage the broader community
    - Have interconnectedness with the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan
- 38
- No plans “specifically mention a dual or common policy shared with other agencies or functional area. This is likely because each agency developed its plan independently, albeit likely with some consultation. The federal mandates further exacerbate the focus on topical areas versus cross-cutting policies” (Phase 1 Report, p. 11).

## **Findings: Part I of the State Plan**

- The findings of the original state planning legislation remain relevant
- The Functional Plans were meant to be the basis for setting priorities of public resources, financial or otherwise
- Section 226-2 Definitions may need to be revised after the Phase II review and activity
- Section 226-3 Overall Theme is based on a set of principles and values considered integral to society in Hawai'i

## **Findings: Part I of the State Plan**

- Section 226-4 presents three goals for guaranteeing the principles of choice and mobility, self-reliance, and self-determination
- A sample of new Cross-Cutting issues that have emerged:
  - Homelessness
  - Affordable Housing
  - Green Practices
  - Climate Change
  - Conservation and Environmental Stewardship
  - Self-reliance / Resiliency / Security, Local Food production
  - Alternate finance mechanism including public-private partnerships
- Sections 225-5 through 225-27 provide objectives and policies. While general, many of these would be considered out-of-date today, and not reflective of current needs

## **Findings: Part II of the State Plan**

- Functional plans have not been kept up to date
  - Agencies are more likely to have Strategic Plans / Directions (terminology differs) in support of their budget
  - Federal regulatory requirements are common when an agency or unit receives federal funds
  - While Functional Plans themselves may not be updated, planning activities occur such as Assessment of Needs, Facility Plans, and Strategic Plans
  - Of the 13 Functional Plan areas, only four appear to be current: Historic Preservation, Housing, Recreation, and Transportation
- 
- The functional plans “now comprise of vastly different approaches and content; they are more likely to be single topic focus and policies are less likely to be cross cutting across functional areas.”

## **Findings: Part II of the State Plan**

- None of the original Advisory Committees are still in existence
- Strategic Plans lack coordinating input and common themes beyond a single department, division, or office
- While a great amount of Objectives and Goals revolve around the Economy, there is no Economic Development Functional Plan
- Most agencies are anxious to have access to new technologies available for planning and most agencies have an IT improvement strategic plan
- The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan pivots on a balance of three interdependent pillars of economic, social, and environment

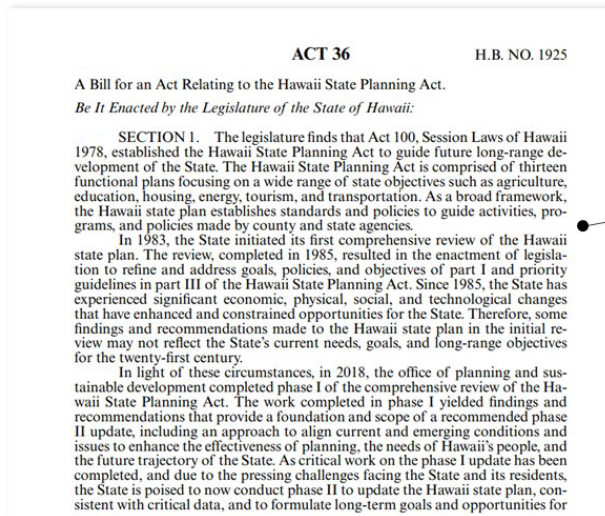
## **Findings: Part III of the State Plan**

- The original four priority guidelines may no longer be the priority areas of today
  - The Economic priority continues to have a great amount of detail as compared to other sections and issues
  - The last two priority directives added to Part III of the Hawai'i State Planning Act legislation are: Sustainability and Climate Change
  - Others have started the process of looking at new long-term visions
- 
- The report points to additions to the priority directions during the amendment process.

# State Plan Update: Phase II

- State Plan Update: Phase II
- Building on the findings of the Phase I report, the 2024 legislature passed and Governor Green signed Act 36 to form this Task Force and continue Phase 2 of the current comprehensive update to the State Planning Act.

# Act 36, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2024



## The Phase II Update:

- Builds on findings from Phase I
- Convenes a Task Force to sunset June 30, 2027
- Establishes Project Coordinator position within OPSD
- Appropriates state general funds

- With the enactment of Act 36 in 2024, Phase 2 picks up where Phase 1 left off. The Act established the Hawaii State Planning Act Phase 2 Task Force, which sunsets on June 30, 2027, and appropriated FY25 funding for a coordinator position and contractual services.
- With these initial resources and the findings and recommendations from the Phase 1 report, the Task Force is poised to commence Phase 2 of the update process with the goal of revising the State Plan based on current data, trends, and priorities, and to better reflect present-day public sentiment.

# Task Force Workplan

## The Task Force shall:

- Create a **two-year workplan** to examine Chapter 226 and develop findings, recommendations, metrics, and benchmarks to measure progress

## The workplan shall address:

- Coordination approaches to facilitate alignment and implementation of plans under Chapter 226
  - Consideration of equity concerns, including impacts to low-income communities, throughout the update process
- 
- Under Act 36, the Task Force will develop a two-year workplan to examine Chapter 226 and produce findings, recommendations, and measurable benchmarks to track progress.
  - The workplan needs to outline how the Task Force will facilitate alignment and implementation of State and County plans under Chapter 226.
  - The workplan also must be designed around equity considerations throughout the process.
  - In short, the workplan will serve as a roadmap to ensure the update process is coordinated, actionable, and inclusive.

## Task Force Duties

**The Task Force will examine and formulate recommendations regarding:**

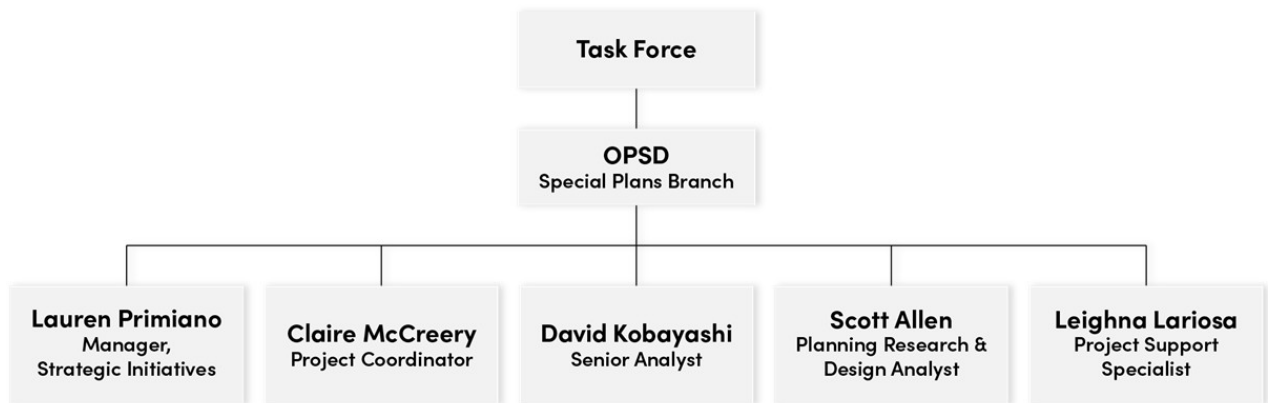
- Relevancy of values reflected in the Hawai'i State Planning Act
  - Consistency of goals, objectives, and policies with the State, counties, and general public
  - Compliance, utility, and State and county coordination in formulating and implementing Functional Plans
- 
- Specifically, the Task Force will assess what still holds true in the State Plan and what may need to be updated to reflect current times, including testing the relevancy and consistency of the values reflected in the Theme with public sentiment.
  - The Task Force will also propose re-formulated and streamlined goals, objectives, and policies under Part 1 of Chapter 226, in a manner consistent with public sentiment and state and county aspirations.
  - Part 2—which describes the planning coordination and implementation system—will also be reviewed, with the goal of re-establishing the functional plans to improve compliance, utility, and coordination of State and county implementation.
  - In sum, the Task Force will evaluate whether the Hawai'i State Plan is still serving as a relevant, multidisciplinary planning system, and make recommendations to modernize it and strengthen cooperation between State and county programs and actions.

## **Task Force Deliverables**

### **The Task Force shall prepare:**

- Annual reports to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the 2026 and 2027 legislative sessions
    - Task Force’s progress
    - Completed actions
    - Findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation
  - A final report that describes how the State is addressing the findings set forth in the Phase I Report
- 
- Over the course of its work, the Task Force will prepare and submit to the legislature two annual reports prior to the 26 and 27 legislative sessions. The reports will describe the Task Force’s progress, completed actions, and findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation.
  - The Task Force will additionally submit a final report describing how the findings from the Phase 1 Report are being addressed through the Phase 2 update process.

# OPSD Staffing Support



- OPSD’s Special Plans Branch is providing staffing to assist the Task Force in its duties. We are a team of 5, including Lauren Primiano as Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Claire McCreery as Project Coordinator, David Kobayashi as Senior Analyst, Scott Allen as Planning Research & Design Specialist, and Leighna Lariosa as Project Support Specialist.
- Our role will be to work with and provide both technical and administrative support for the Task Force, including:
  - Preparing a draft workplan for the Task Force’s consideration and advising the Task Force on process design and approach;
  - Procuring contractual services and collaborating with vendors in executing the Task Force Workplan;
  - Conducting planning research and analyzing findings to inform Task Force deliberations;
  - Formulating policy recommendations based on research and data collected;
  - Preparing deliverables for the Task Force’s review and approval; and
  - Preparing Task Force meeting materials and facilitating public access.

# Phase II Milestones & Next Steps

- Phase II Milestones & Next Steps

## **Milestones Accomplished**

- Hired Coordinator
  - Task Force kick-off
  - HB 300 funding for FY26
  - Engaged UH to provide support throughout the project
- 
- So far, OPSD hired a Project Coordinator this past January, kicked off our first Task Force meeting, secured funding for the project for Fiscal Year 2026 (which is in addition to the funding originally appropriated under Act 36 for FY25), and is in the process of engaging the University of Hawai'i to support the project.

## **Upcoming Tasks**

- Stakeholder interviews
  - Finalize workplan
  - Research / Inventory, prepare supplemental scopes of work for technical studies
  - Public outreach and engagement strategy
- 
- In the coming months, we will begin stakeholder interviews, finalize a workplan for the Task Force's review, prepare scopes of work for the technical studies, and begin strategizing for the project's public outreach efforts.

## Phase II Milestones & Next Steps

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

# Phase II Sub-Projects



Technical Studies



Stakeholder Interviews



Generational Workshops



Polls



Subgroup Meetings



Issue Papers



Community Conferences

- Similar to the original State Plan development process and based on the Phase 1 update report recommendations, OPSD will facilitate the completion of the following sub-projects for the Task Force to review over the next 2 years.
- Using this process, data will be collected on different aspects of the State and on public opinion, which will help with developing the two final legislative reports.
- OPSD will be working with UH to complete the stakeholder interviews. These interviews will also aid in the development of the scope of the technical studies.

## Phase II Milestones & Next Steps

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

# Task Force Next Steps



**Review  
Foundational  
Documents**

State Planning Act (HRS §226)  
Act 36, SLH 2024  
Phase I Report



**Next  
Meeting**

Workplan Discussion  
Fall 2025



Map graphic in The Hawai'i State Plan Booklet, 1978

The line art used in the branding of the Hawai'i State Planning Act is inspired by the flowing map contours featured in the original 1978 State Plan booklet. These lines, an ode to the Plan's origins, evoke the natural rhythms of currents, topography, and interconnected systems—an apt metaphor for the Plan itself. Just as these contours move and shift, the State Plan is intended to evolve over time, serving as a guiding framework for Hawai'i's long-range growth through coordination, connection, and continual refinement.

- The visual concept and graphics were developed by our very talented Special Plans Branch colleague, Leighna Lariosa, who drew inspiration from the flowing map contours featured in the original 1978 State Plan booklet.

# Questions?

Meeting materials can be found on the OPSD website at [planning.hawaii.gov/spb/hawaii-state-plan-update-phase-2](https://planning.hawaii.gov/spb/hawaii-state-plan-update-phase-2)

Contact [claire.p.mccreery@hawaii.gov](mailto:claire.p.mccreery@hawaii.gov)  
for any questions

- Meeting materials can be found on the OPSD Special Plans Branch webpage.