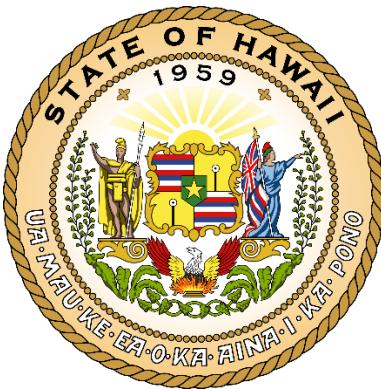


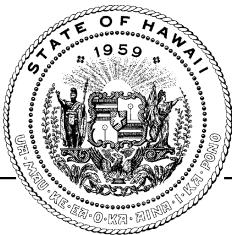
Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Update 2025 Annual Report

Report to the Legislature Regular Session of 2026



**Prepared Pursuant to Act 36, SLH 2024 by the Office of Planning and Sustainable
Development and the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Task Force**

**Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, State of Hawai‘i
December 2025**



STATE OF HAWA'I OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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December 29, 2025

Aloha Legislators,

This report fulfills the statutory requirement in Act 36, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2024 Section 2(f) to submit an annual progress report to the State Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the commencement of the 2026 legislative session.

Informed by research, public opinion, and stakeholder engagement, the Hawai'i State Planning Act (HRS 226) was signed into law in 1978. The plan was designed as a long-range planning document to set objectives and policies on emerging issue areas and to establish implementation systems. The plan ultimately aimed to "improve the planning process in [the] state, to increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, to improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, to provide for wise use of Hawaii's resources and to guide the future development of the state" (HRS 226-1). The plan underwent a comprehensive update in 1986 to reflect changes at the time, but it has not had any major revisions since.

Recognizing the need for an update, the Hawai'i State Plan Update Phase I report was completed in 2018. This report evaluated more current plans being used across state agencies and assessed their alignment with the functional plans – plans designed by state agencies responsible for a specific functional area to carry out the State Plan. The Phase I report provided findings and recommendations for next steps in the update.

In Phase II, initiated by Act 36, SLH 2024, a fourteen-member Task Force, including representatives from state agencies, county planning departments, and county economic development boards has been charged with making recommendations for an update to the Plan that incorporates contemporary issues and enhances the effectiveness of state planning.

The following was accomplished in 2025:

1. Pursuant to Act 36 Section 2(d), OPSD's Special Plans Branch hired a Project Coordinator to support the update.

2. The Task Force convened for three meetings: a kick-off informational meeting in May, a draft workplan discussion in October, and an updated draft workplan and legislative report review in December.
3. OPSD commenced stakeholder interviews with the county planning departments. Providing project support, OPSD outsourced services from University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Urban and Regional Planning to continue interviews with additional stakeholders.

Included in this report is a two-year work plan for the Phase II update, which fulfills Act 36, Section 2(b)(1) (SLH 2024). Thank you to the legislators and to the Task Force members/designees for your support. We are looking forward to advancing the project and submitting a second report in the coming year.

Mahalo,

Mary Alice Evans

Mary Alice Evans
Chair, State Planning Act Task Force
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

Enclosure

cc:

Governor Josh Green, M.D.
Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke
Legislative Reference Bureau
Legislative Auditor
Department of Budget and Finance
Hawai'i State Library System
University of Hawai'i Hamilton Library

Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Task Force

List of Members and Designees as of December 2025

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD)

Director: Mary Alice Evans (Task Force Chair)

Department of Education (DOE)

Superintendent: Keith Hayashi
Designee: Ken Kakesako

County of Hawai‘i Planning Department

Director: Jeff Darrow
Designee: Michelle Ahn

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

Chair: Kai Kahele
Designee: Stacy Ferreira
Designee: Summer Sylva
Designee: Leinā‘ala Ley

Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting

Director: Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Designee: Dina Wong

University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO)

Representative: Carl Bonham
Designee: Steven Bond-Smith

Kaua‘i Planning Department

Director: Ka‘āina Hull
Designee: Marie Williams

Hawai‘i Economic Development Board

Chair: Nahua Guilloz
Designee: Jacqui Hoover

Maui Planning Department

Director: Kate Blystone

O‘ahu Economic Development Board

Chair: Jeffrey Overton
Designee: Cat Awakuni Colón

Hawai‘i Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Commission

Co-Chair: Dawn Chang
Co-Chair: Mary Alice Evans
Designee for Dawn Chang: Michael Cain
Designee for Mary Alice Evans: Chris Liu

Kaua‘i Economic Development Board

Chair: Laurie Yoshida
Designee: Jackie Kaina

Maui Economic Development Board

Chair: Tiare Martin
Designee: Leslie Wilkins

1 Introduction

1.1 The Hawai‘i State Planning Act: History

The [Hawai‘i State Planning Act](#) (Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) 226, the State Plan), signed into law in 1978, was designed to guide the future development of the State and addressed a broad range of topics based on trends and issues at the time. Organized into 3 parts, I) Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives and Policies, II) Planning Coordination and Implementation, and III) Priority Guidelines, the Plan established policies and systems into law to be carried out by State agencies and the counties. Through extensive research and public input, an update to the State Planning Act was completed in 1986 to reflect changes in the State. Additional amendments have been made to the Plan since 1986, but the Plan has yet to undergo another substantial update process. Consequently, some components of the Plan have become out-of-date and are no longer actively referenced.

1.2 The Hawai‘i State Plan Update: Phase I

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) contracted with SSFM International to complete a [Phase I Update report](#) in 2018. This report provided an analysis of data collected from State agencies on the status of the functional plans (issue-specific plans intended to support the implementation of Parts I and III of the State Plan) and on planning documents departments and agencies were using at the time. The report concluded with a set of findings and recommendations for the next phase of the update.

1.3 The Hawai‘i State Plan Update: Phase II

Following recommendations from the Phase I report, the Phase II update was initiated through [Act 36, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2024](#). Act 36 established a Task Force and appropriated funds to develop a two-year plan and two legislative reports on the Task Force’s progress, completed actions, and findings and recommendations. The reports must be submitted to the legislature at least 20 days prior to the commencement of the 2026 and 2027 legislative sessions, and the Task Force will cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

2 Activities and Accomplishments

2.1 Staffing

2.1.1 Special Plans Branch Support

2(d) The Task Force shall appoint a coordinator, who shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. [Act 36, SLH 2024].

Being administratively placed with OPSD, staffing support for Phase II is provided by OPSD’s [Special Plans Branch](#) (SPB), whose duties are to “[carry] out the functions of the Office of Planning related to statewide planning under the Hawai‘i

State Planning Act.” This past year, SPB hired a Project Coordinator, completed desk research projects, administratively supported Task Force meetings, established a [Phase II update webpage](#) on the OPSD website, managed contractual work, developed work plans for the Task Force’s review, conducted preliminary interviews with the county planning departments, and completed other work as described in this report.

2.1.2 Contractual Support

OPSD contracted University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Urban and Regional Planning (UHM DURP) to undertake the stakeholder interview, literature review, targeted community outreach, and preparation of thematic area papers (as described in 3.1).

2.1.3 Hele Imua Internship Support

An intern was hired through the State’s Workforce Development Division Hele Imua Internship Program in August 2025. The intern conducted legislative research and assisted with stakeholder interviews and Task Force meetings.

2.2 Legislative and Policy Research and Analysis

2.2.1 The History of the State Planning Act

Materials on historical state planning efforts were sourced from the Hawai‘i State Archives and the OPSD Library. The materials, including research papers, household survey reports, and policy recommendation papers, were used to develop informational materials on the State Planning Act and to identify potential processes that could be incorporated into the Phase II update. This research was compiled into a presentation that was made to the Task Force, and an annotated version was posted on the Phase II updated webpage for public viewing (see Appendix A).

2.2.2 Amendments to the State Planning Act

2(c)(1) [The Task Force shall examine and report on] the findings of the original Hawai‘i State Planning Act, including any amendments necessary for relevancy. [Act 36, SLH 2024].

Through a review of [HRS 226](#) and the [Session Laws of Hawai‘i](#), all amendments to the State Plan were recorded in a database. The database contains over 150 amendments which can be organized by year and by type of amendment (e.g., amendments with structural changes, major changes, or minor changes). This database will be posted to the Phase II update webpage in 2026.

2.3 Phase II Update Work Plan

2(b)(1) [The task force shall] create a two-year plan to examine the issues established in subsection(c), clarify and articulate findings, develop metrics and benchmarks to measure progress... [Act 36, SLH 2024].

A preliminary work plan was completed for the Task Force's review in October 2025. This work plan was informed by Act 36, stakeholder interviews with the county planning departments (as described in 2.4), and historical processes related to the initial establishment and updates to the State Planning Act. Utilizing the Task Force's feedback on the work plan, it was revised for a second review and approval (as amended) in December 2025 (Appendix B).

The approved work plan notes the following key outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Findings and recommendations to update the long-range objectives based on assessing the relevance of the Hawai'i State Planning Act to the current and future needs, priorities, and values of Hawai'i's people.
- **Outcome 2:** Findings and recommendations to strengthen effective planning and program coordination through the statewide planning system, including fostering alignment among state and county agencies and the broader planning and implementation ecosystem to achieve the State Plan's long-range objectives.
- **Outcome 3:** Findings and recommendations informed by an equitable process that elevates the voices of low-income communities.
- Outcome 4:** Identification of metrics, benchmarks, and indicators to measure progress toward the State Plan's long-range objectives and guide future implementation.

The work plan outlines tasks which will be taken to achieve these outcomes, as well as administrative, research, and engagement efforts to support task completion. Supporting efforts include stakeholder interviews, literature reviews, legislative and policy research and analysis, targeted community outreach, and legislative outreach.

2.4 Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews were conducted by OPSD with the four county planning departments in August and September 2025 to gather insights on inter-agency coordination, community engagement, and areas of interest for the Phase II update.

The remaining interviews with stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, and community leaders will be completed by DURP and included in downstream reports to inform Task Force recommendations.

2.5 Task Force Meetings and Informational Presentations

The Task Force convened three times in 2025. Informational presentations, discussions, and voting on action items took place during the meetings.

2.5.1 **Meeting #1, May 29, 2025: Introduction to the Hawai'i State Planning Act Update**

[Agenda](#) and [Materials](#)

OPSD Director and Task Force Chair Mary Alice Evans, guest speaker Leo Asuncion (who oversaw the development of OPSD’s Phase I Report), and SPB staff presented an overview of the history and evolution of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act, key revisions made to the plan over the years, OPSD’s role in administering HRS 226, the present-day planning ecosystem (both directly and indirectly related to HRS 226), the findings of the Phase I Report, the charge of the Task Force for Phase II (2024-2027), and next steps. During this meeting, the Task Force discussed areas of interest for the update such as community engagement and the roles of existing plans.

2.5.2 [Meeting #2, October 30, 2025: Preliminary Work Plan](#)
[Agenda](#) and [Materials](#)

During this second meeting, OPSD staff presented a draft two-year work plan to the Task Force and posed discussion questions for their feedback. Discussion topics included potential issue areas to be added to the State Plan, the organization and framing of the Plan’s Objectives and Policies, intergovernmental coordination, and community engagement.

2.5.3 [Meeting #3, December 18, 2025: Revised Work Plan and Legislative Report](#)
[Agenda](#) and [Materials](#)

OPSD shared the revised work plan and draft legislative report with the Task Force for their discussion and approval. Notable changes to the revised work plan included the addition of tasks (as described in 2.3) and changes to the timing of key activities, as reflected in the updated workflow chart (Appendix B).

3 Planned Activities for 2026

3.1 [Administrative, Research, & Engagement Support](#)

In 2026, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) will provide support to the Task Force through the following activities:

- **Stakeholder Interviews (Continued):** Stakeholders from the public and private sector will be interviewed alongside community leaders to gather insights on current and emerging issues, aspirations, and coordination needs (e.g., interagency coordination and data sharing). The interviews will serve as a primary input to establish a preliminary guiding framework for the update process.
- **Literature Reviews:** A variety of literature reviews will be conducted to: 1) assess the relevancy of the findings and purpose, definitions, overall theme, and goals of the State Plan, 2) complement stakeholder interviews in identifying and framing long-range issues that should be addressed by the State Plan, and 3) help determine targeted community outreach needs, approaches, and topics.

- **Targeted Community Outreach:** Outreach (e.g., through online polling, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups) will be conducted with community-based and non-profit organization stakeholders that serve historically underrepresented communities. Where feasible, engagement efforts will be coordinated with related outreach initiatives to minimize duplication and engagement fatigue. Measures will be taken to ensure clear and transparent communication about how input will inform final recommendations and subsequent actions.
- **Report Drafting, Presentation, and Legislative Outreach:** OPSD will assist the Task Force in preparing the annual and final reports for the legislature, including potential draft legislation. At the direction of the Task Force, OPSD will pursue opportunities to present the Task Force's findings and recommendations to various stakeholders which may include, but not be limited to, the legislature, general public, and state and county agencies.

3.2 Continued Task Force Meetings and Membership

Task Force meetings are anticipated for reviews of progress, the formation of PIGs, and the development of final recommendations to the Legislature.

3.3 Continued Administrative Support from OPSD

OPSD's SPB staff will continue to provide administrative support to the Task Force through meetings, project planning, and contract management in the coming year.

Appendix A: Introduction to the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Update Annotated Presentation

Introduction to the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Update

MAY 29, 2025
TASK FORCE MEETING #1

- Introduction to the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Update
 - May 29, 2025
 - Task Force Meeting #1

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

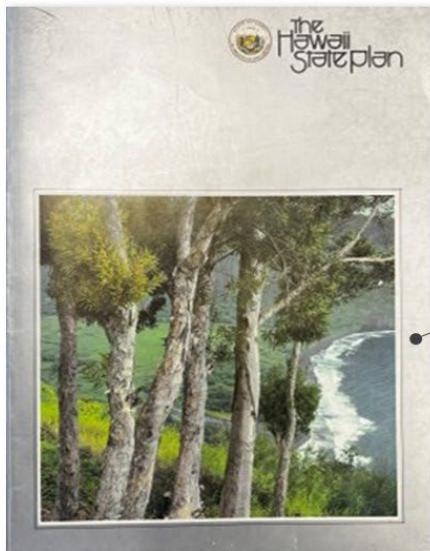
- This presentation will discuss:
 - An overview of the Hawaii State Planning Act, HRS 226;
 - Key revisions that have been made over time;
 - OPSD's role in administering HRS 226;
 - The present-day planning ecosystem, both directly and indirectly related to HRS 226;
 - The findings of a 2018 report 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 Hawaii State Plan is a broad statute aimed at setting **long-range goals, objectives, policies, and guidelines** for the State of Hawaii

- The Hawaii 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 Hawaii's future.
- The Hawaii State Planning Act (HRS 226) was signed into law in 1978 as Act 100, to codify the Hawaii 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, was a significant event 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 extension of the growing from earlier pioneering by the State of Hawaii which has given birth to a national movement for planning innovation—particularly for our State Land Use Law.

This reflects a maturity and high degree of professionalism in both our Legislative and Executive branches of State Government which in turn reflect the practical wisdom and broad political experience of our people.

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

After The Hawaii State Plan sets forth the broad goals and objectives to provide general direction for our State, it further details priority directions which must be followed in the process of implementing the immediate attention.

A system for coordinating the actions of the State, County, and other agencies to implement the State Plan is also established. Through this system, the Hawaii State Plan acts as an overall framework for Statewide plans and programs, and County general plans and development plans, fall under the umbrella of the funding, define and implement the State Plan.



A Policy Council composed of selected State and County Government representatives will discuss issues and facilitate resolution of problems. A mechanism for amendment assure that The Hawaii State Plan will be continuously in tune with the aspirations 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 coordination must be used to achieve more efficiently our goals and objectives.

The aspirations of the people of Hawaii are reflected in the State Plan.

An extensive public participation effort was conducted to involve people in the process of planning and plan formulation. Active participation by hundreds of our citizens has marked the development of this important document.

Provisions for continued public participation have been incorporated into the State Plan.

It is this spirit of generous public participation and cooperation which will insure that 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
Governor of Hawaii

Forward from The Hawaii State Plan Booklet, 1985

“

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...**

”

- Governor Ariyoshi

4

- The creation of the State Plan was a significant event in Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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.”

Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

...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.

Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

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.**

Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

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**.

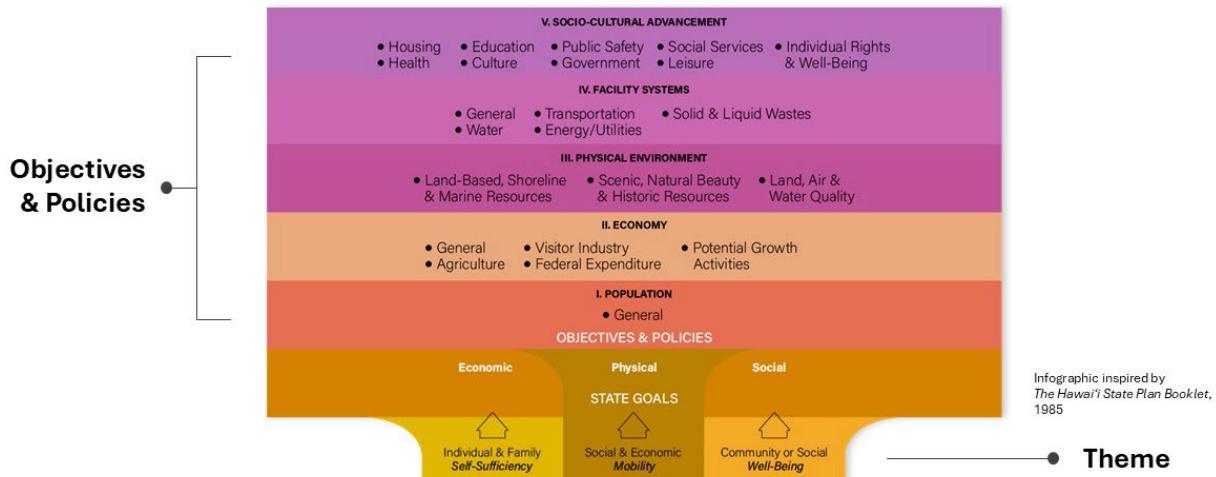
Overview

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.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

PART III

Priority Guidelines

HRS §§226-101 through 226-109

Purpose	Initial Priorities (1978)
Establish priority areas and actions/guidelines to address statewide concerns requiring immediate attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 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.

Overview

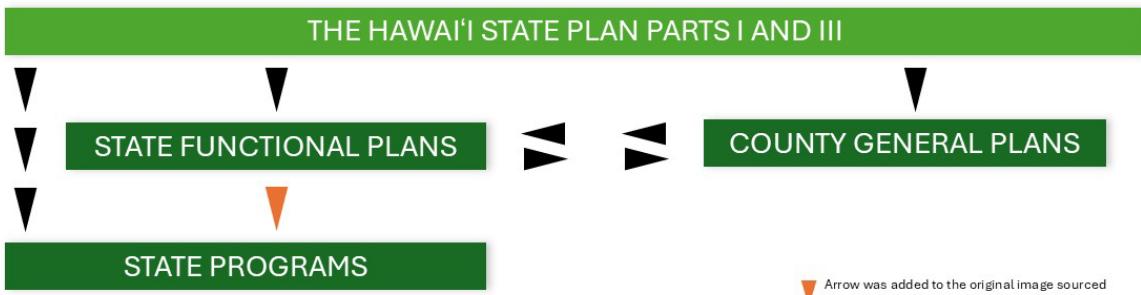
INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

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



- 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.

Revisions

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

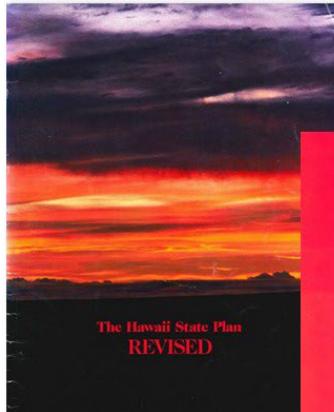
State Plan Revised (1986)

- 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

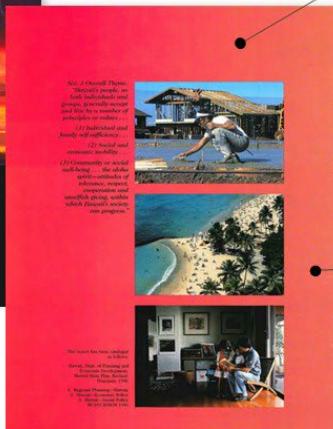
- The resulting revisions enacted policies to:
 - Help improve the business climate;
 - Strengthen research, education, and training programs to diversify Hawaii’s economy; and
 - Expand allowable uses of agricultural lands.
- To address the concerns raised from the public sentiment surveys, education, crime and criminal justice, and affordable housing were also added to the priority guidelines under Part 3.

Revisions

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE



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

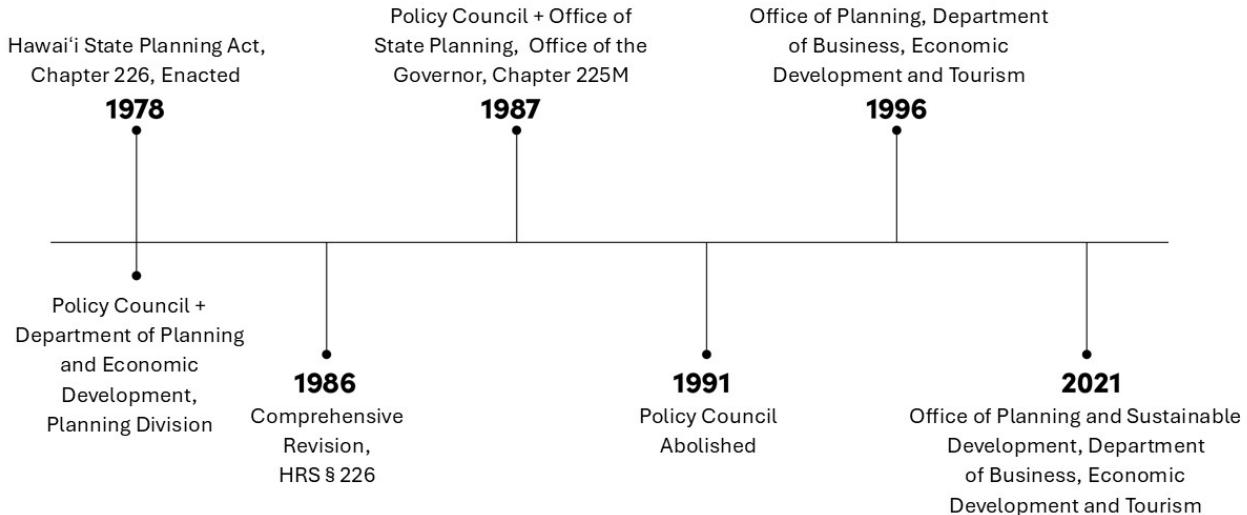
- Strategic Planning
- Functional Plans
 - **1991 (2001):** Guidelines to be developed by Department of Budget and Finance (later the Office of Planning)
 - **2017:** Advisory committee to be convened by lead state agency; statutory boards permitted
- Additions
 - **2016:** Hawai'i interagency council 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

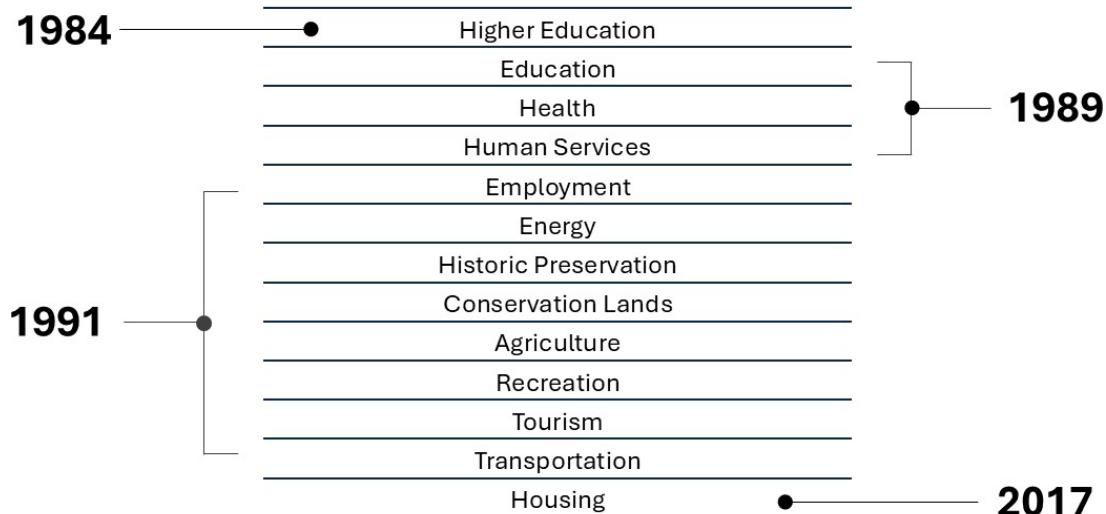
Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

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		

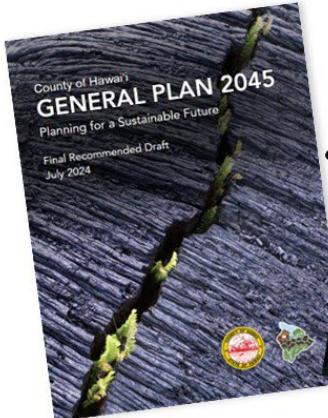
- While the present-day planning ecosystem largely derives from Part 2 of Chapter 226, there are numerous other complementary plans and planning systems that exist outside of Chapter 226, some of which are shown in the rightmost column and include:
 - Department and program-specific plans;
 - Plans that 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

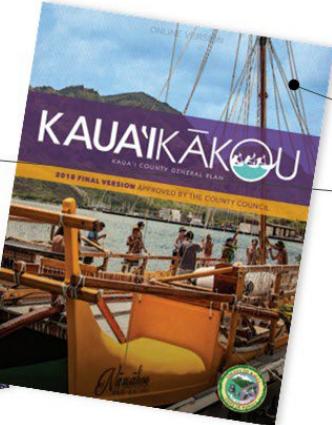


- Since enactment of the State Plan, **13 Functional Plans** have been prepared by the state agency primarily responsible for a given functional area.
- The table shows when each Functional Plan was last touched. Many have not been updated since their original preparation and have become obsolete for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

County Plans Under Chapter 226



County of Hawai'i
General Plan, 2024



Kaua'i General Plan, 2018

- 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

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

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

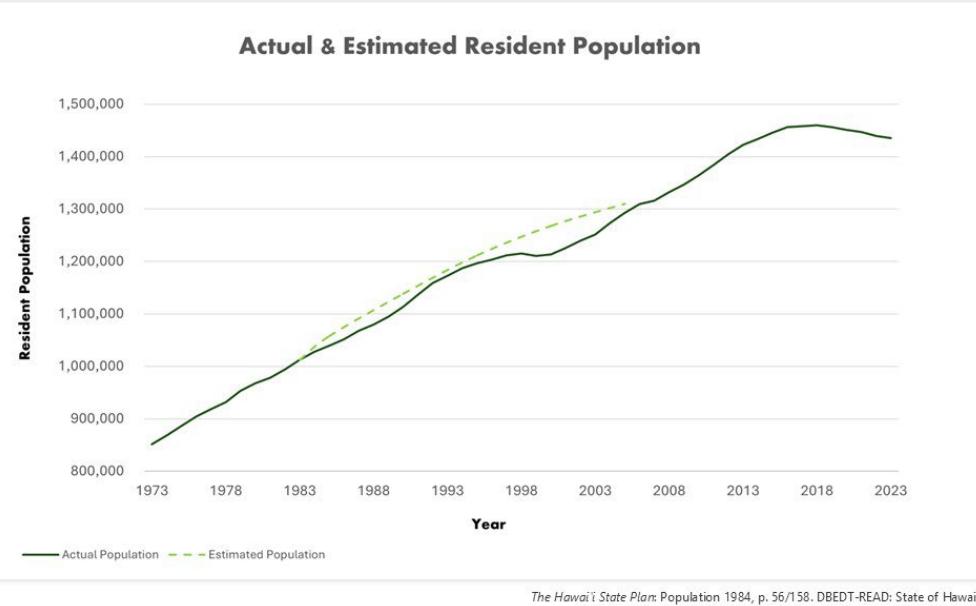
INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

Listing of Plans without a Related Functional Plan - Examples

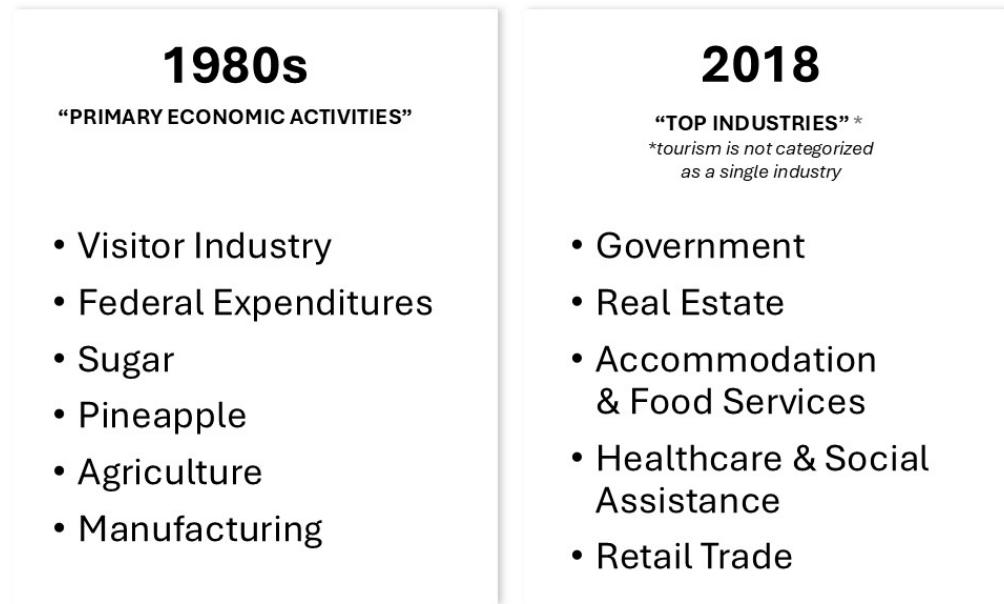
Category	New Plan(s)	Year
Climate Change	A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii (ORMP Working Group & UH)	2009
Coastal Resources	Section 309 Assessment and Strategy FY 2016-2020 (DBEDT-Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program)	2015
Water	State Water Projects Plan (CRWM)	2017
Wildlife	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

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE



- 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.



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

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- 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.

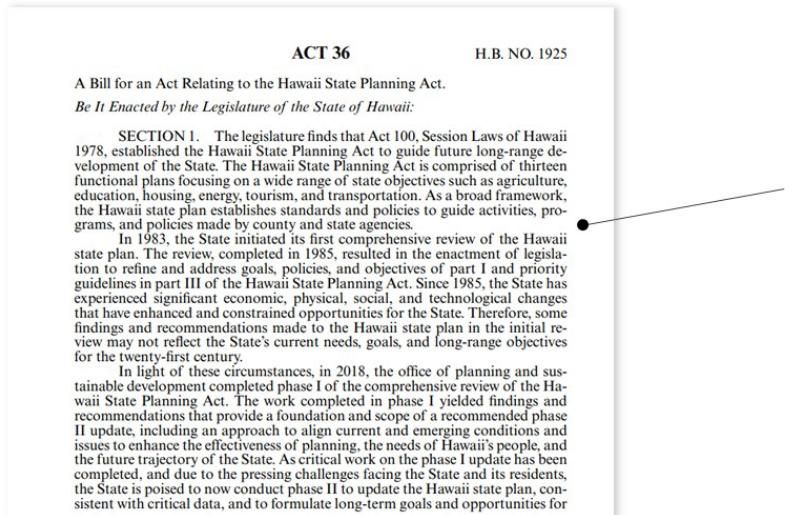
State Plan Update: Phase II

- 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.

Phase II Update

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE

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.

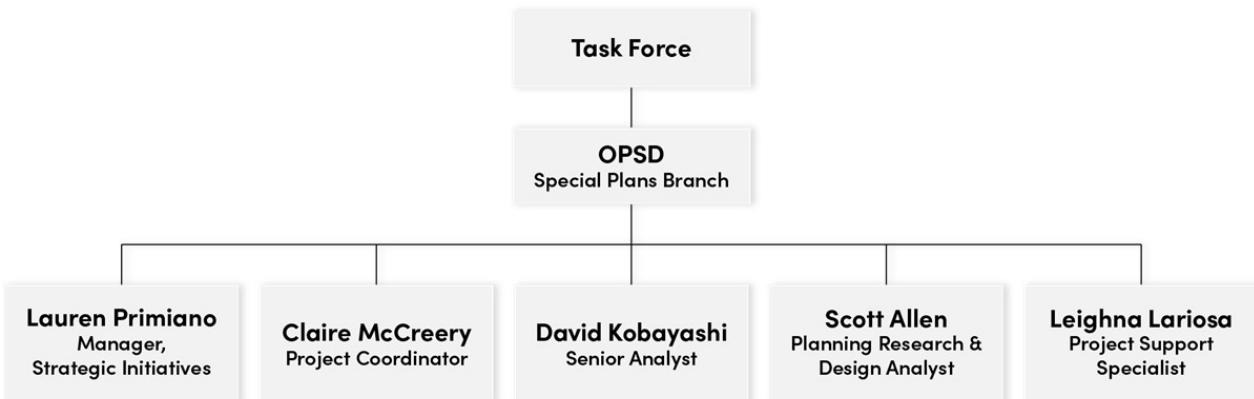
Task Force Deliverables

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 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

Contact claire.p.mccreery@hawaii.gov
for any questions

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

Appendix B: Approved Work Plan

Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Update Workplan

Prepared Pursuant to Act 36, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2024
Approved as Amended by the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Task Force:
December 18, 2025

OVERVIEW

Background

The [Hawai‘i State Planning Act](#) (Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226, the State Plan), signed into law in 1978, was designed to steer the future development of the state. A significant part of the State’s history, the plan addressed long-term goals and considered the needs of Hawai‘i’s people in balance with the State’s limited resources. It also covered key issues at the time, such as population, the economy, facility systems, and socio-cultural progress.

Recognizing the need for an update, the Office of Planning published the Hawai‘i State Plan Update [Phase I report](#) in 2018. The report presented findings and recommendations to lay the groundwork for a revised plan and evaluated existing plans across state agencies and their alignment with the functional plans. The report recommended that updates should be made to address contemporary concerns such as environmental issues, emerging economic sectors, and evolving social challenges.

Building on the Phase I report, [Act 36](#) was passed by the 2024 State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Josh Green, M.D., establishing a Task Force to carry out Phase II of updating Chapter 226. Among its duties, the Task Force was first charged with creating a two-year plan to examine the issues described in Act 36. This document—the **Hawai‘i State Planning Act Phase II Update Workplan**—sets forth such a plan to guide the Task Force’s approach toward generating recommendations to comprehensively update Chapter 226.

Act 36 Requirements

In conformance with Act 36, the Task Force shall (Act 36, Section 2):

- (b)(1) Create a two-year plan to examine the issues established in subsection (c), clarify and articulate findings, develop metrics and benchmarks to measure progress, and develop a final report that describes how the State is addressing the findings set forth in the phase I update completed in 2018;
- (b)(2) Incorporate into the plan how it will coordinate with other groups, agencies, and programs within and outside the State to achieve alignment of plans and their implementation;
- (b)(3) Incorporate into the plan how it will coordinate with the counties to achieve alignment of plans and their implementation; and
- (b)(4) Consider and incorporate into the plan equity concerns, including economic and accessibility impacts to low-income communities.

The Task Force will examine and report on (Act 36, Subsection 2):

- (c)(1) The findings of the original Hawai'i State Planning Act and include any amendments necessary for relevancy;
- (c)(2) Re-establishment and formulation of a list of long-range focus areas for functional plans that place greater emphasis on plan formulation and program coordination to integrate state and county activities, including but not limited to an evaluation of the latest state and county comprehensive economic development strategies;
- (c)(3) Definitions in section 226-2, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, that may require amendments;
- (c)(4) Principles and values considered integral to the State, including tests for current relevancy and necessary amendments;
- (c)(5) Consistency of state goals established pursuant to section 226-4, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in relation to departments, counties, and the general public;
- (c)(6) The ability of the Hawai'i state plan to provide a relevant, multi-disciplinary planning system and direction to encourage and facilitate cooperation among various entities, including between the State and counties; and
- (c)(7) Objectives and policies established pursuant to 226-5 through 226-27 that may require updates to conform with current and long-range goals.

SCOPE OF WORK

Key Outcomes

The Task Force expects the following outcomes from the execution of this Workplan:

- **Outcome 1:** Findings and recommendations to update the long-range objectives based on assessing the relevance of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act to the current and future needs, priorities, and values of Hawai‘i’s people.
- **Outcome 2:** Findings and recommendations to strengthen effective planning and program coordination through the statewide planning system, including fostering alignment among state and county agencies and the broader planning and implementation ecosystem to achieve the State Plan’s long-range objectives.
- **Outcome 3:** Findings and recommendations informed by an equitable process that elevates the voices of low-income communities.
- **Outcome 4:** Identification of metrics, benchmarks, and indicators to measure progress toward the State Plan’s long-range objectives and guide future implementation.

Administrative, Research, & Engagement Support (OPSD)

To assist the Task Force, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) will provide administrative, research, and engagement support through the activities described below. A contract with the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Urban and Regional Planning (UHM) has been executed to supplement OPSD’s capacity in conducting these activities.

Stakeholder Interviews: Stakeholders from the public and private sector will be interviewed alongside community leaders to gather insights on current and emerging issues, aspirations, and coordination needs (e.g., interagency coordination and data sharing). The interviews will serve as a primary input to establish a preliminary guiding framework for the update process.

Literature Reviews: A variety of literature reviews will be conducted to: 1) assess the relevancy of the findings and purpose, definitions, overall theme, and goals of the State Plan, 2) complement stakeholder interviews in identifying and framing long-range issues that should be addressed by the State Plan, and 3) help determine targeted community outreach needs, approaches, and topics.

Targeted Community Outreach: Outreach (e.g., through online polling, stakeholder interviews, and/or focus groups) will be conducted with community-based and non-profit organization stakeholders that serve historically underrepresented communities. Where

feasible, engagement efforts will be coordinated with related outreach initiatives to minimize duplication and engagement fatigue. Measures will be taken to ensure clear and transparent communication about how input will inform final recommendations and subsequent actions.

Legislative and Policy Research and Analysis: Legislative research will ground recommendations to update Chapter 226 in an understanding of both the historical context of the statute's evolution and existing long-range statutory targets. In addition, identifying state and county laws that reference Chapter 226 will help the Task Force and policymakers better assess the potential impacts and implications of proposed updates. Targeted, issue-area policy research will also be conducted to inform the development of specific recommendations.

Report Drafting, Presentation, and Legislative Outreach: OPSD will assist the Task Force in preparing the annual and final reports for the legislature, including potential draft legislation. At the direction of the Task Force, OPSD will pursue opportunities to present the Task Force's findings and recommendations to various stakeholders which may include, but not be limited to, the legislature, general public, and state and county agencies.

Products

A number of interim and final products will be prepared to synthesize research and engagement insights and assist the Task Force's actions. Key products are described below.

Database of Amendments to Chapter 226: This database will provide a centralized and user-friendly record of all amendments to Chapter 226 since its enactment in 1978. It will catalog more than 150 amendments and allow users to organize and filter entries by year and by amendment type (e.g., structural, major, or minor changes). Hyperlinks to the corresponding session laws will be included to facilitate access to relevant legislative history and contextual background. The database will serve as a reference tool for stakeholders seeking to better understand the Hawai'i State Planning Act and as a resource for Task Force members as they consider and develop recommendations for its update.

Framework Research Report: The report will synthesize findings from the literature review of existing plans, reviews of other states' planning frameworks, stakeholder interviews, and the Phase I report. Its purpose is to equip the Task Force with the information needed to consider the continued relevance of the State Plan's findings and purpose, definitions, overarching themes, and goals, as well as the effectiveness of the statewide planning system established in Chapter 226—particularly in relation to the broader planning

ecosystem. The report will also examine the organization and role of other state planning acts for comparative consideration.

Preliminary Guiding Framework: This product will compile and organize the Task Force's discussion of the Framework Research Report into a preliminary guiding document to support the update of Chapter 226. The framework will identify and group thematic issue areas and associated long-range objectives for review, noting where existing provisions may require clarification, consolidation, or amendment. The framework will be used to define the scope of work and discussion prompts for Permitted Interaction Groups, which will examine each issue area in more detail and develop issue area-specific findings and recommendations.

Thematic Area Briefs: These briefs will provide data and analyses on relevant findings from stakeholder interviews, literature reviews, and targeted community outreach. The briefs will serve as direct inputs to Permitted Interaction Groups, informing their deliberations to investigate and develop recommendations related to key thematic issues, the role of the planning ecosystem in addressing those issues, appropriate metrics and benchmarks to measure progress, and coordination and implementation mechanisms.

Final Report: The Final Report will compile and synthesize the Task Force's discussions, findings, and recommendations for updating Chapter 226. The report is expected to include draft legislation reflecting the Task Force's recommendations. In addition, derivative products may be prepared, as appropriate and subject to available resources, at the direction of the Task Force.

APPROACH

Tasks

Task 1: Prepare Preliminary Guiding Framework and Form Thematic Area Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs)

- **Timeframe:** December 2025 – April 2026
- **Planned Task Force Meetings:** March, April
- **Supporting Research:** Stakeholder interviews and literature reviews will be completed to:
 - **Examine the role of the State Planning Act** within the present-day planning ecosystem.
 - **Assess the relevancy of the State Plan's overarching themes and goals** in relation to the current and future needs, priorities, and values of Hawai'i's people.
 - **Identify long-range thematic issue areas** to inform and guide the update process and associated recommendations.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Urban and Regional Planning (UHM) will support OPSD in carrying out the supporting research. OPSD will compile and synthesize the resulting findings into a Framework Research Report and present it to the Task Force for review and discussion. Task Force input and direction will then be synthesized into a Preliminary Guiding Framework, which will inform the formation and scope of Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs), each focused on a broad thematic area.

Task 2: Prepare Thematic Area Recommendations

- **Timeframe:** March – September 2026
- **Planned Task Force Meetings:** July, August, September
- **Supporting Research:** Stakeholder interviews, literature reviews, targeted community outreach, legislative and policy research and analysis will be conducted and compiled to prepare Thematic Area Briefs that inform the deliberations of thematic area PIGs.

During this task, thematic area Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) will be convened to develop recommendations that identify key issues, drawing on insights from the Thematic Area Briefs. Their work may include investigation of:

- Critical long-range issues and recommendations to address these issues;
- The role of the current planning ecosystem in relation to long-range issues;
- Relevant metrics and benchmarks to measure progress; and

- Effective systems for planning coordination and implementation to address the identified issues.

PIGs will present their findings and recommendations to the Task Force on a rolling basis for deliberation. OPSD may procure vendor services in support of the PIGs.

Task 3: Prepare Final Report to the Legislature

- **Timeline:** September – December 2026
- **Planned Task Force Meetings:** November, December
- **Supporting Research:** Report drafting, legislative research (subject to the availability of resources)

OPSD will synthesize the Task Force's deliberations and adopted findings and recommendations into a draft final report. OPSD will also complete legislative research to identify state and county laws that reference Chapter 226 to better understand the downstream effects of potential changes, subject to the availability of resources. OPSD will then present the draft report to the Task Force for feedback and approval. The Task Force will subsequently finalize its recommendations and submit a final report to the Legislature prior to the start of the 2027 legislative session.

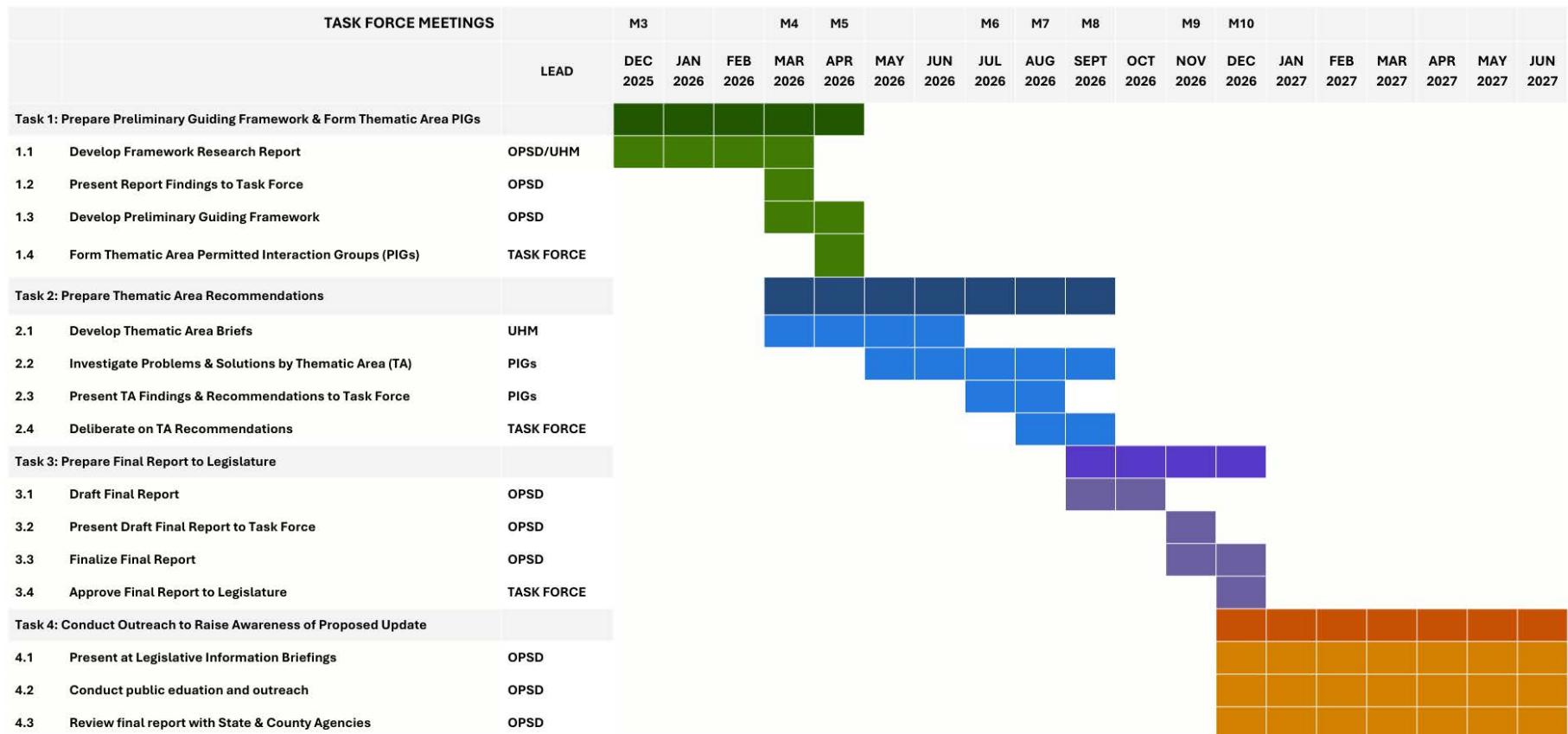
Task 4: Conduct Outreach to Raise Awareness of Proposed Update

- **Timeline:** December 2026 – June 2027
- **Planned Task Force Meetings:** None
- **Supporting Engagement:** Report presentation and legislative outreach (subject to the availability of resources)

At the direction of the Task Force, OPSD will prepare derivative products (subject to the availability of resources) and conduct legislative outreach to present the Task Force's recommended changes to Chapter 226. OPSD will also conduct outreach to state and county agencies, as well as the general public (subject to the availability of resources), to raise awareness about the proposed updates. The Task Force will sunset June 30, 2027.

Timeline

The following chart summarizes key activities and milestones:



Workflow

The following graphic organizes the key activities by type and demonstrates the relationships between the different components of the workplan:

ONBOARDING AND BASELINE RESEARCH January – December 2025		TASK 1: PREPARE PRELIMINARY GUIDING FRAMEWORK AND FORM THEMATIC AREA PIGS December 2025 – April 2026		TASK 2: PREPARE THEMATIC AREA RECOMMENDATIONS March – September 2026		TASK 3: PREPARE FINAL REPORT TO LEGISLATURE September – December 2026		TASK 4: CONDUCT OUTREACH TO RAISE AWARENESS OF PROPOSED UPDATE December 2026 – June 2027	
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT & RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute contract with UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning Research history of Hawaii State Planning Act Design preliminary stakeholder interview guide Interview County Planning Departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing plans, other state examples Interview State agencies associated with current functional plans, community organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate TF comments into preliminary guiding framework for HRS 226 update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct literature review of Thematic Areas Identify and interview additional stakeholders per Thematic Area Conduct targeted community outreach per Thematic Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesize PIGs' findings and recommendations / TF approvals Complete additional policy analysis* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate TF comments into Final Report 			
PRODUCTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of Hawaii State Planning Act Annotated Slides Summary Report of Initial Findings from Stakeholder Interviews Draft Work Plan Database of Amendments to HRS 226 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Research Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Guiding Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Area Briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Report to the Legislature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report to the Legislature Derivative information products* 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Final Report at legislative information briefings Conduct public education and outreach sessions (re: Final Report / draft legislation)* Review final report with State and County agencies* TF sunsets June 30, 2027 	
TASK FORCE DISCUSSION / ACTION	<p>TF Meetings #1-3 May – December 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the Hawaii State Planning Act Review Draft Work Plan Action: Approve Work Plan Review Draft Annual Report to Legislature Action: Approve Annual Report 	<p>TF Meeting #4 March 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Framework Research Report findings Deliberate findings and provide input to guide Preliminary Guiding Framework 	<p>TF Meeting #5 April 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Preliminary Guiding Framework to determine Thematic Area Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) Identify Thematic Area Subject Matter Experts Action: Form PIGs 	<p>PIG Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and deliberate Thematic Area Briefs Investigate and develop recommendations for addressing critical Thematic Area issues, role of planning ecosystem in relation to Thematic Areas, relevant metrics and benchmarks to measure progress, and coordination and implementation systems <p>TF Meetings #6-8 July – September 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIGs present findings and recommendations Deliberate findings and recommendations, provide input to guide Draft Final Report 	<p>TF Meeting #9 November 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Draft Report to Legislature 	<p>TF Meeting #10 December 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Approve Final Report 			

*Subject to the availability of resources