

Introduction to the Hawai‘i State Planning Act Update

MAY 29, 2025

TASK FORCE MEETING #1



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

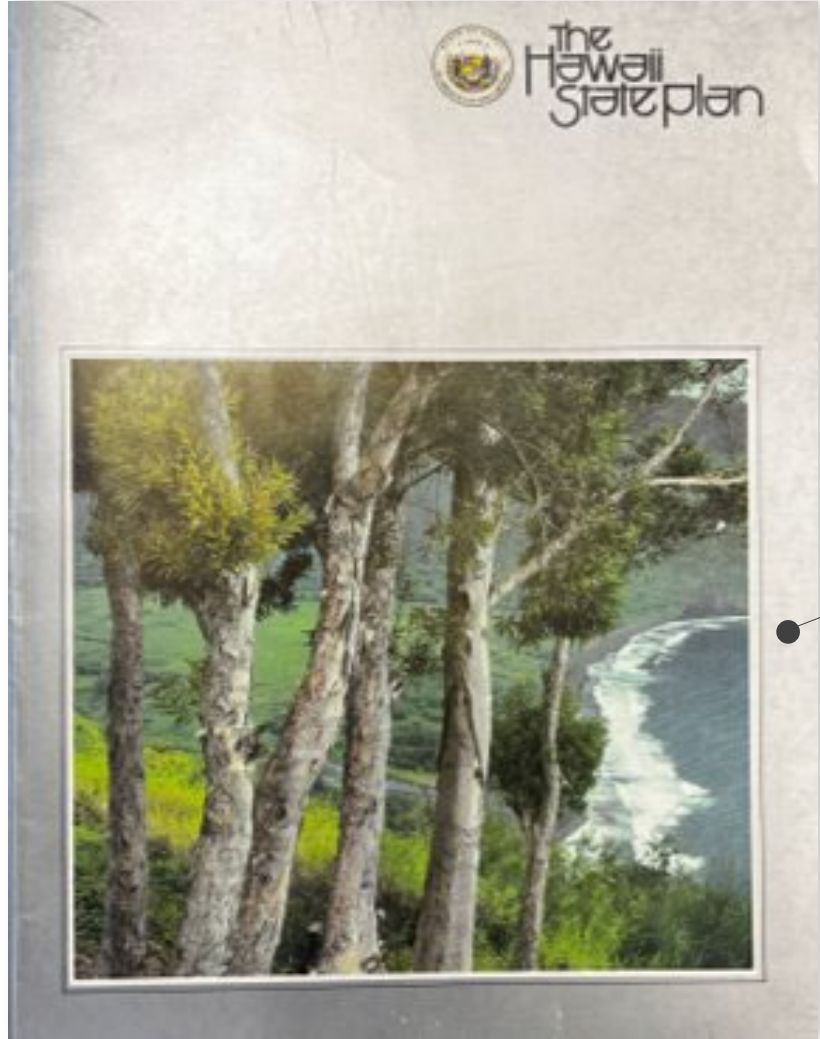


Milestones & Next Steps

Overview

Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAI'I STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE



The Hawai'i State Plan Booklet, 1985

The Hawai'i State Plan is a broad policy document aimed at setting **long-range policies** and **standards** for the State of Hawai'i

Overview

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAI‘I 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 mirrored 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
Governor of Hawaii

Forward from The Hawai‘i 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 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

”

...Built on a Comprehensive Planning Process



Inventory
of Goals,
Objectives
& Policies



Statewide
Household
Surveys



Technical
Studies



Issue
Papers



Policy
Council



Public
Informational
Workshops



Public
Hearings

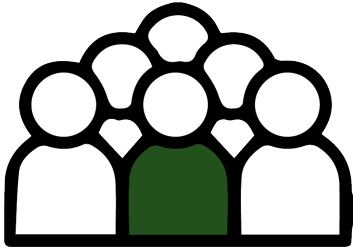


Additional
Meetings



State
Legislature

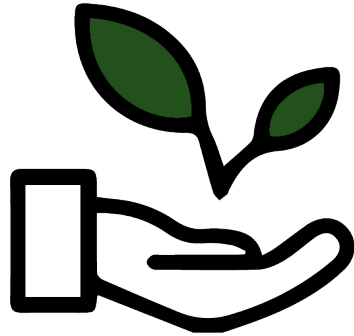
Trends & Problems (at the time)



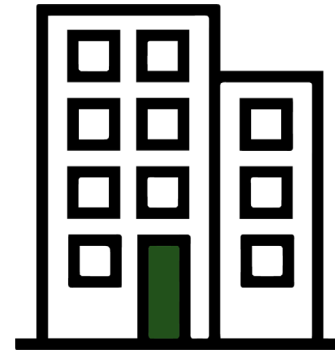
Population



Economy



Physical
Environment



Facility
Systems



Socio-Cultural
Advancement

General Framework



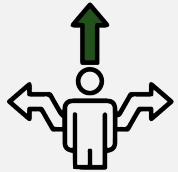
PART I

Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies

Themes



Individual and Family Self-Sufficiency



Socio and Economic Mobility



Community or Social Well-Being

PART I

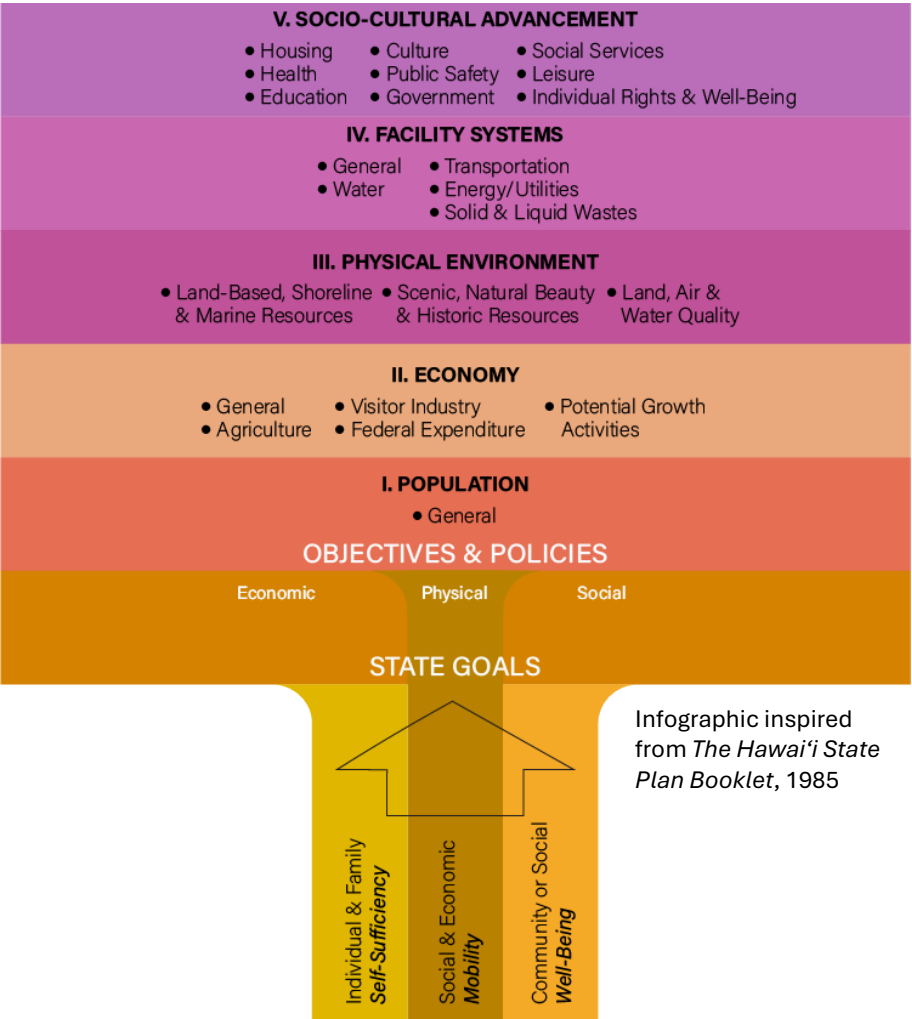
Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies

Goals

- **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

PART I

Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives & Policies

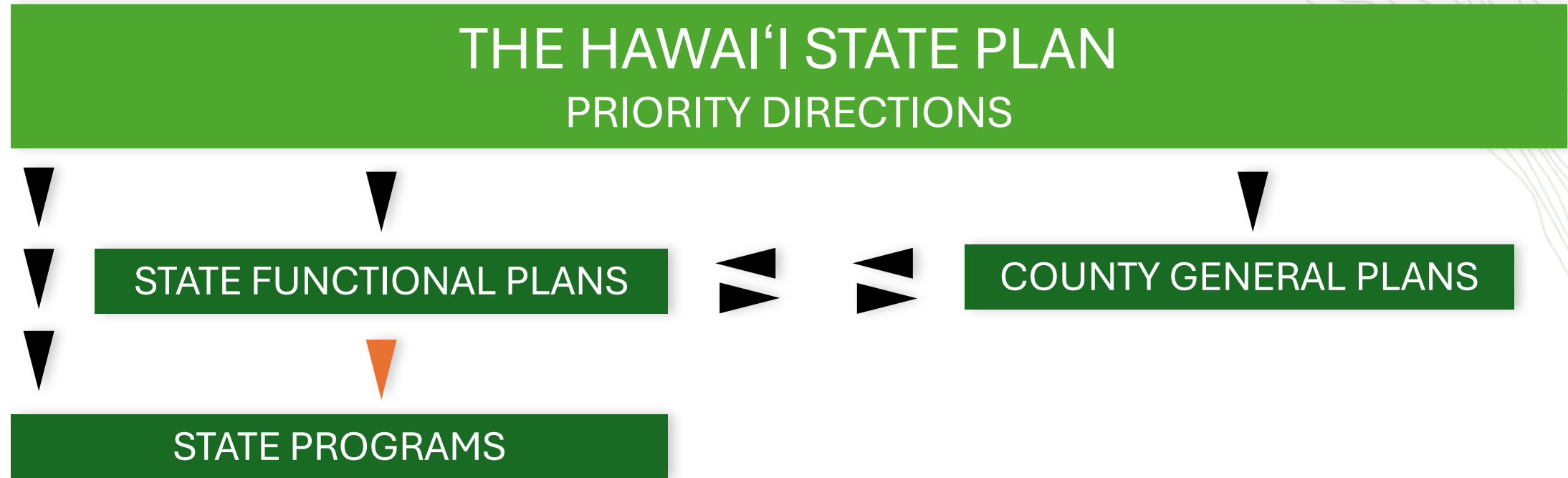



Objectives
& Policies

Infographic inspired from *The Hawai'i State Plan Booklet*, 1985

PART II

Planning Coordination & Implementation



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

PART III

Priority Directions / Guidelines

Purpose

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

Initial Priorities (1978)

- Economic
- Population Growth and Distribution
- Land Resources

Revisions

State Plan Revised (1986)

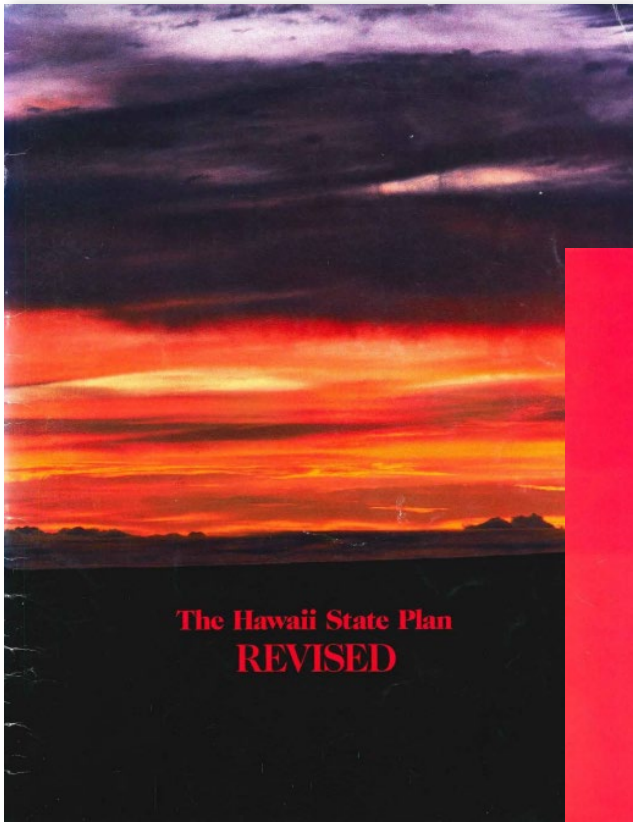
- The 1986 revision to the State Plan was the result of a 2-year review process with the goal of reflecting changes in public priorities
- 2 public surveys and a new set of technical studies informed the update process

State Plan Revised (1986)

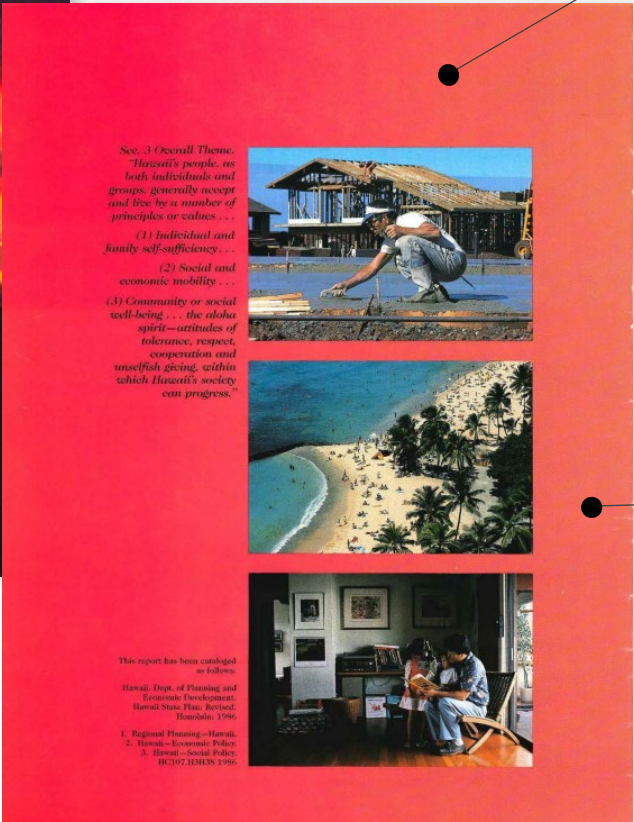
- To name a few, the revision added policies that aimed to:
 - Improve the business climate
 - Call for research, education, and training programs “to attract and develop economic activities of benefit to Hawai‘i”
 - Make “marginal” or “non-essential” agricultural lands available for “appropriate urban uses”
- **Priority Directions** became **Priority Guidelines**, reflecting the nonbinding nature of the statements
- Education, Crime and Criminal Justice, and Affordable Housing were added as Priority Guidelines

Revisions

INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWAI'I 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)*

POST-1986 REVISIONS

Trends Underlying Changes to Parts I and III

- Economic Change
 - Information Technology and the Internet
 - Emerging Industries
- Social Justice
 - Affordable Housing
 - Health Disparities
- Climate Change
 - Renewable Energy
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

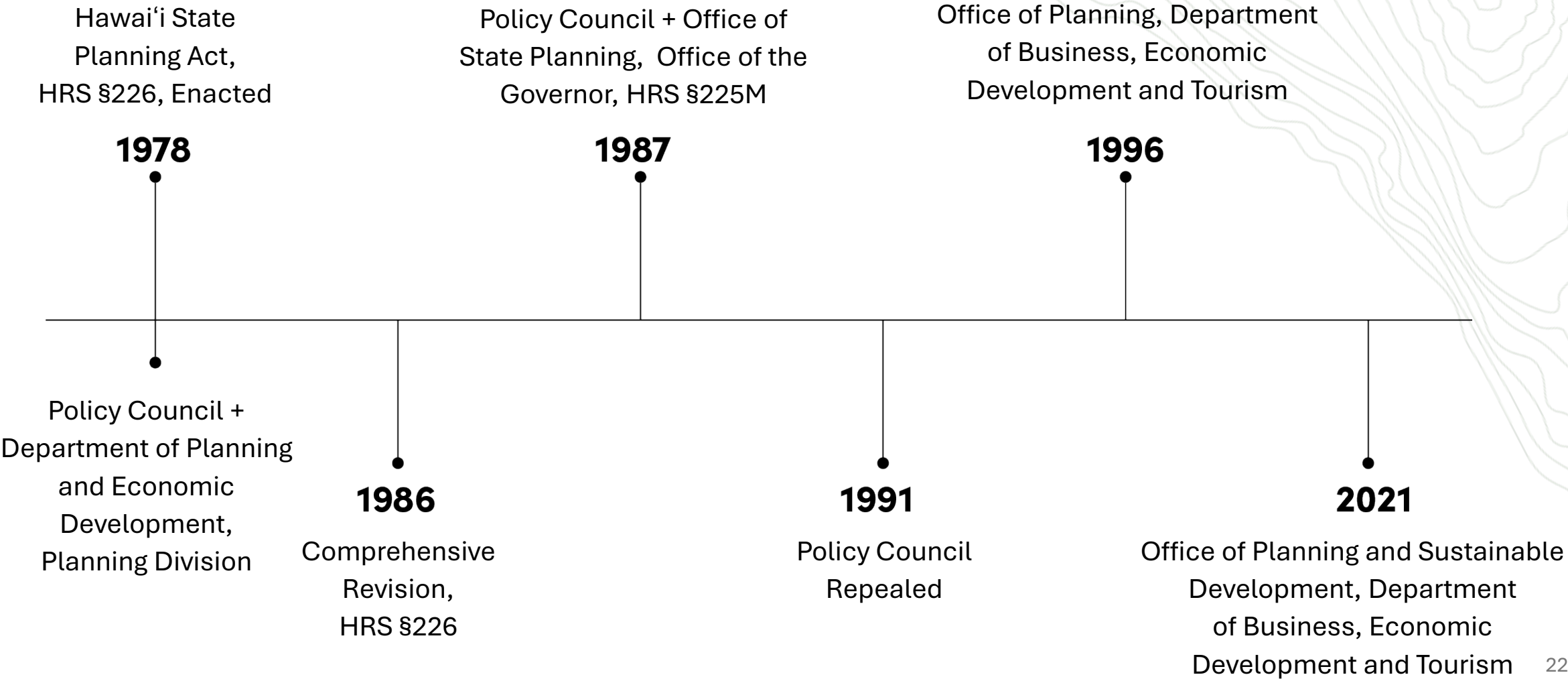
POST-1986 REVISIONS

Key Changes to Part II

- Strategic Planning
- Functional Plans
 - Guided allocation of resources based on guidelines to be developed by Department of Budget and Finance (later Office of Planning)
 - Advisory committee to be convened by lead state agency; statutory boards permitted
- Additions
 - Hawai'i interagency council for transit-oriented development and strategic plan
 - Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan
- Administrative Authority

Administrative Authority

Evolution of Administrative Authority



“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

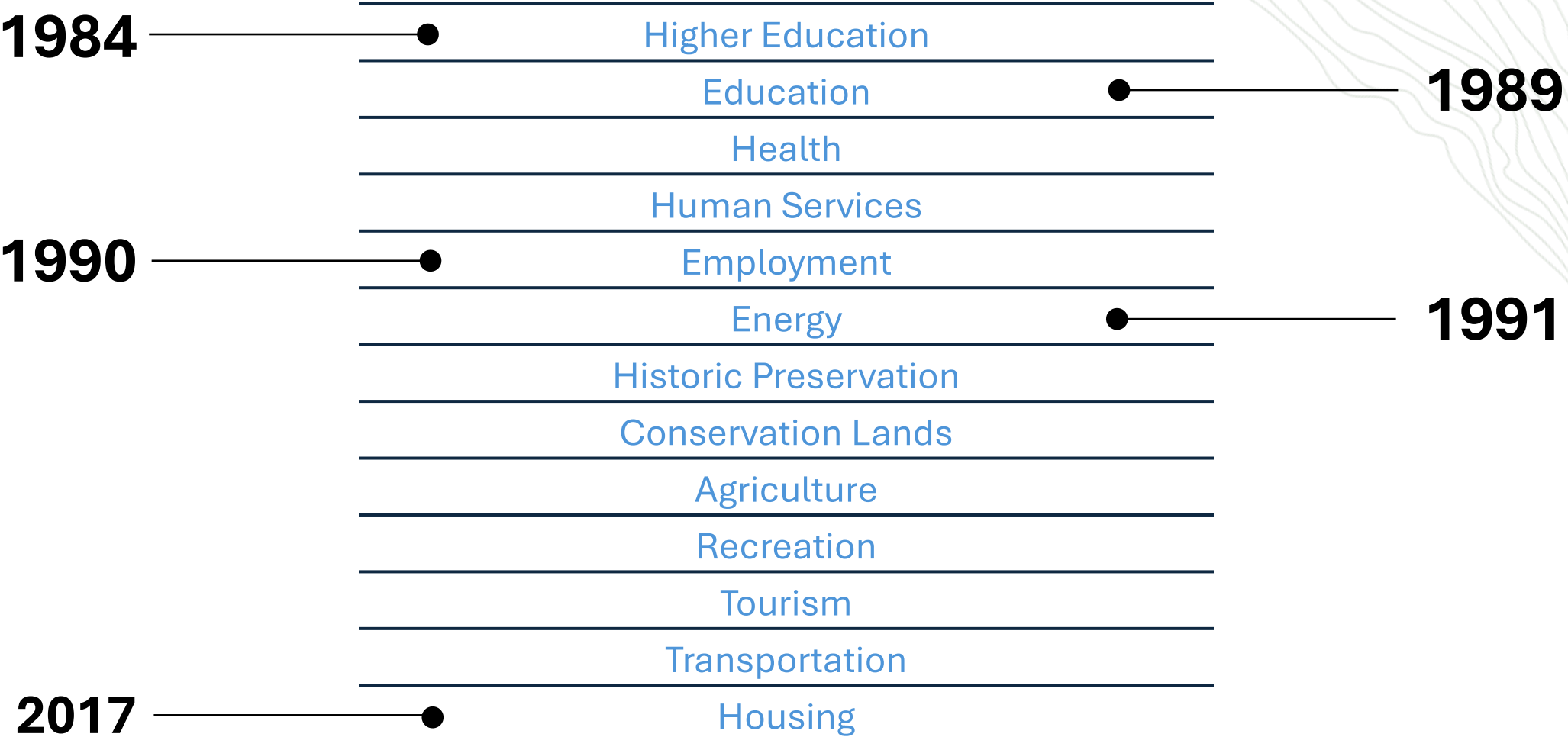
OPSD Statutory Authorities

- **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

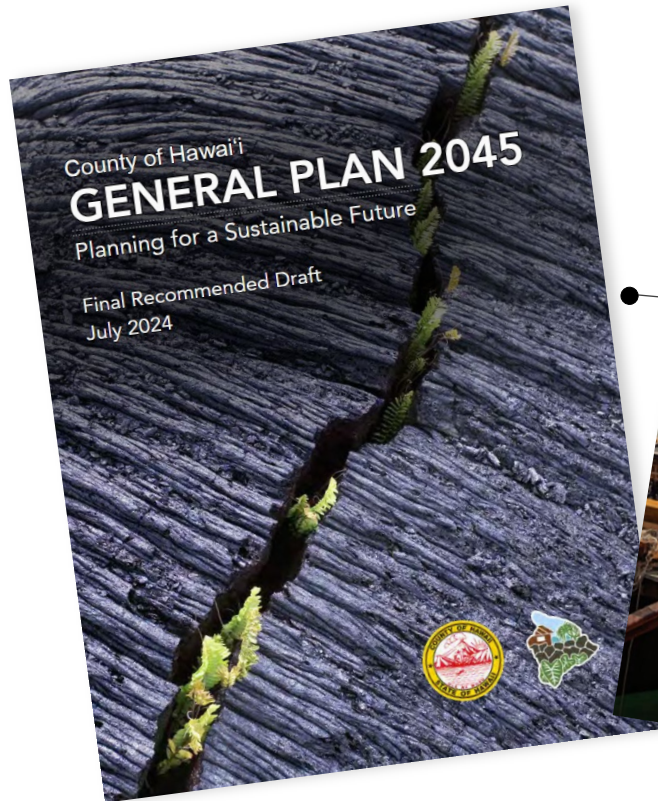
Present-Day Planning Ecosystem

HRS §226-52 State Planning System	Other HRS §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		Additional Plans
State Programs		

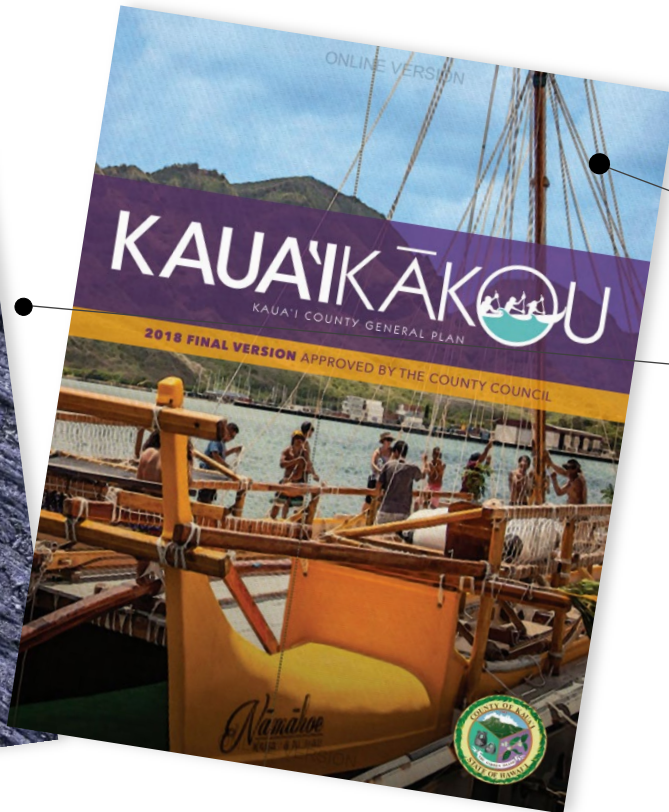
State Functional Plans



County Plans Under HRS §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

Examples of Complementary Plans



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

State Plan Update: Phase I



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

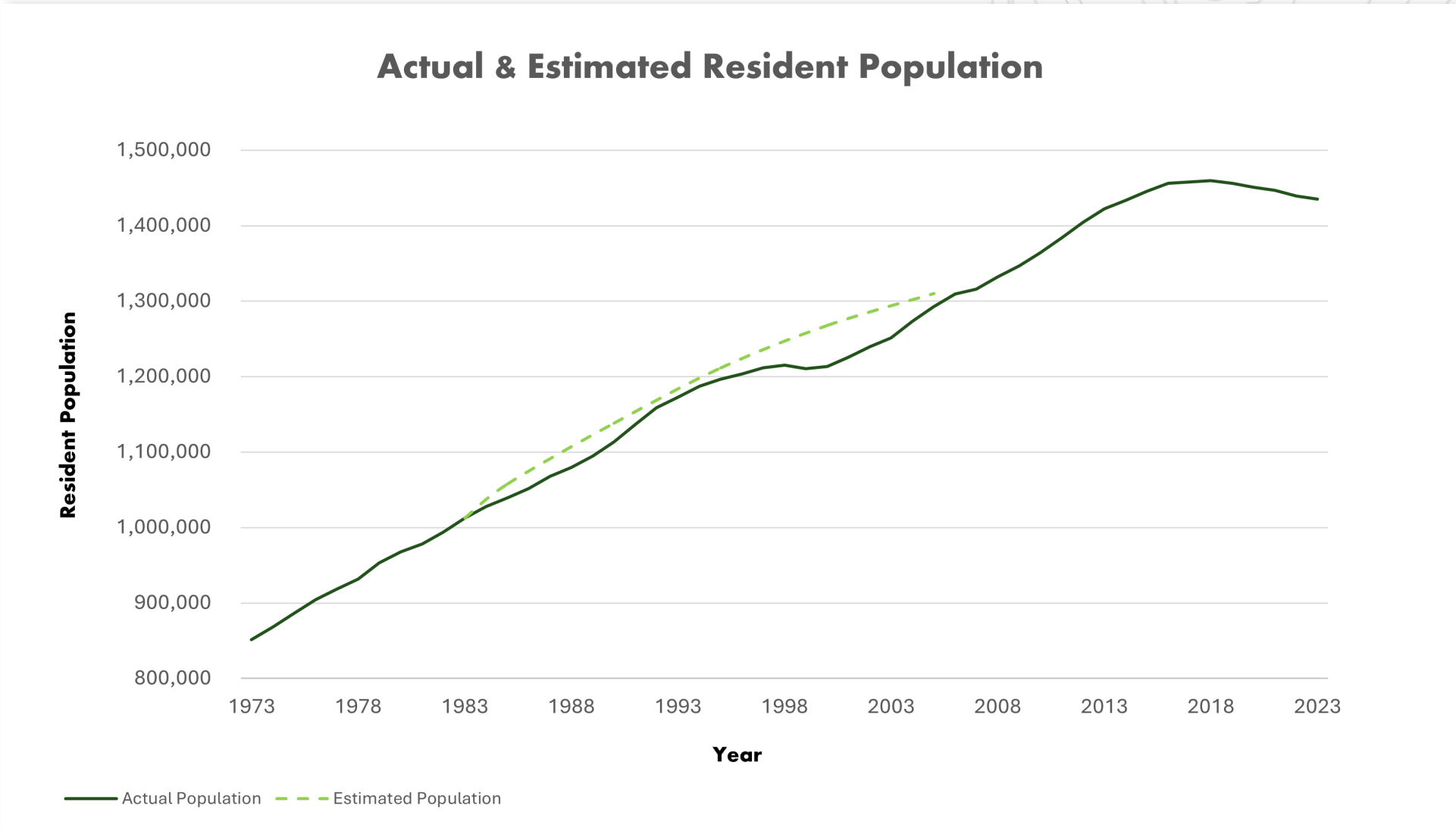
Functional Plan	Year	New Plan(s)	Year
Agriculture	1991	Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Strategic Plan (DOA)	2008
Conservation Lands	1991	Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement Strategic Plan, 2009-2014 (DOCARE)	2013
Education	1989	Hawai'i State Department of Education and Board of Education 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

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 HAWAI'I STATE PLANNING ACT UPDATE



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.

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 and Food Services
- Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Retail Trade

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

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 I Update: Approach

- 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?

Phase I Update: Organization

The update reports on:

- The overall status of the plans
- A review of the plans' common themes and policy directions, and interconnectivity and opportunities
- Findings and recommendations

Review of Common Policies and 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

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 thirteen Functional Plan areas, only four appear to be current: Historic Preservation, Housing, Recreation, and Transportation

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. There is little or no mention of interconnectivity. This is a major Gap
- While a great amount of the Objectives and Goals for the Hawai'i State Plan 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 was prepared in 2007-8 by the State Auditor under the direction of the State Legislature (Act 8 of 2005). The Sustainability Plan pivots on a balance of the 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

State Plan Update: Phase II

Act 36, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2024

ACT 36

H.B. NO. 1925

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii State Planning Act.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1978, established the Hawaii State Planning Act to guide future long-range development of the State. The Hawaii State Planning Act is comprised of thirteen functional plans focusing on a wide range of state objectives such as agriculture, education, housing, energy, tourism, and transportation. As a broad framework, the Hawaii state plan establishes standards and policies to guide activities, programs, and policies made by county and state agencies.

In 1983, the State initiated its first comprehensive review of the Hawaii state plan. The review, completed in 1985, resulted in the enactment of legislation to refine and address goals, policies, and objectives of part I and priority guidelines in part III of the Hawaii State Planning Act. Since 1985, the State has experienced significant economic, physical, social, and technological changes that have enhanced and constrained opportunities for the State. Therefore, some findings and recommendations made to the Hawaii state plan in the initial review may not reflect the State's current needs, goals, and long-range objectives for the twenty-first century.

In light of these circumstances, in 2018, the office of planning and sustainable development completed phase I of the comprehensive review of the Hawaii State Planning Act. The work completed in phase I yielded findings and recommendations that provide a foundation and scope of a recommended phase II update, including an approach to align current and emerging conditions and issues to enhance the effectiveness of planning, the needs of Hawai'i's people, and the future trajectory of the State. As critical work on the phase I update has been completed, and due to the pressing challenges facing the State and its residents, the State is poised to now conduct phase II to update the Hawaii state plan, consistent with critical data, and to formulate long-term goals and opportunities for

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

Task Force Duties

The Task Force shall:

- Create a **two-year plan** to examine the issues established in the Act, 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;
- 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;
- Incorporate into the plan how it will coordinate with the counties to achieve alignment of plans and their implementation; and
- Consider and incorporate into the plan equity concerns, including economic and accessibility impacts to low-income communities.

Task Force Duties

The Task Force shall **examine and report on:**

- The findings of the original Hawai'i State Planning Act, including any amendments necessary for relevancy;
- Re-establishment and formulation of a list of long-range objectives and 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 of the latest state and county comprehensive economic development strategies;
- Definitions in section 225-2, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, that may require amendments;

Task Force Duties

The Task Force shall **examine and report on:**

- Principles and values considered integral to the State, including tests for current relevancy and necessary amendments;
- Consistency of state goals established in pursuant to section 226-4, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in relation to departments, counties, and the general public;
- The ability of the Hawaii state plan to provide a relevant, multidisciplinary planning system and direction to encourage and facilitate cooperation among various entities, including between the State and the counties; and

Task Force Duties

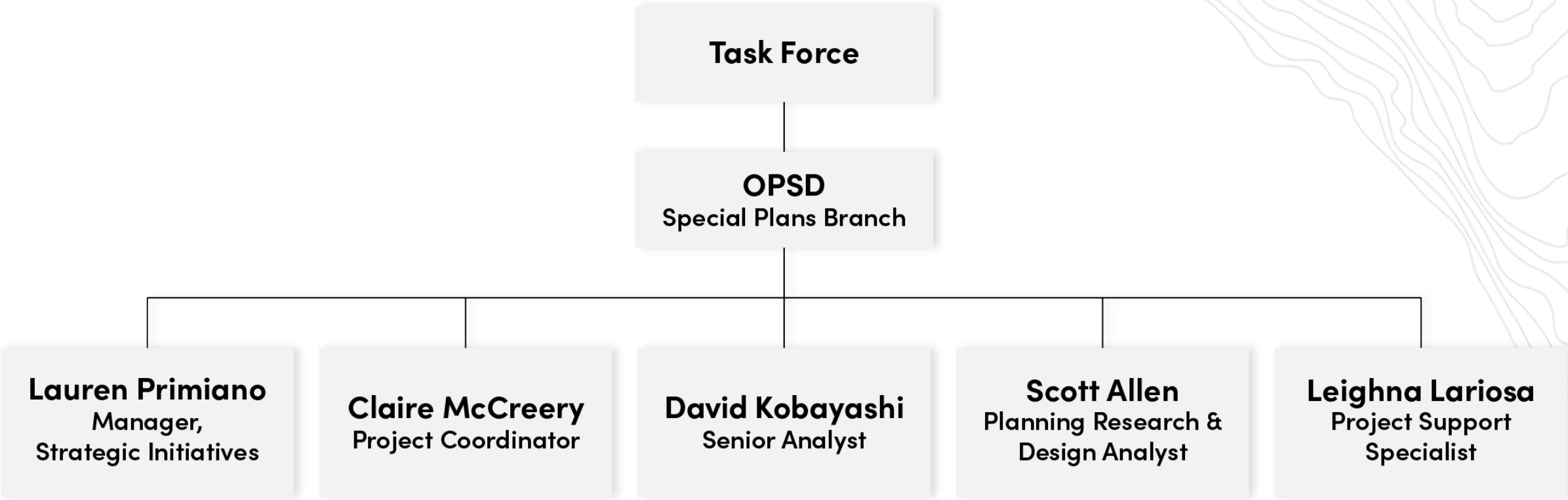
The Task Force shall **examine and report on:**

- Objectives and policies established pursuant to sections 225-5 through 225-27, Hawai'i Revised Statutes that are out of date and require updates to conform with current and long-range goals, which may be achieved by:
 - Convening sub-working groups to reconsider and update the objectives and policies
 - Simplifying and reducing the number of policies
 - Ensuring that functional plans have updated policies
 - Reorienting functional plans to emphasize coordination between state agencies and the counties to ensure that functional plans focus on depth and specificity

Intent of the Phase II Update

- Simplify and update outdated objectives
- Keep the public involved in the update process
- Improve the coordination and implementation system
- Identify next steps for the county and functional plans system

OPSD Staffing Support



Milestones & Next Steps

Milestones Accomplished

- Hired Coordinator
- Task Force kick-off
- HB 300 funding for FY26
- Engaged UH to provide support throughout the project

Upcoming Tasks

- Stakeholder interviews
- Workplan development support
- Research / Inventory, prepare supplemental scopes of work for technical studies
- Public outreach and engagement strategy

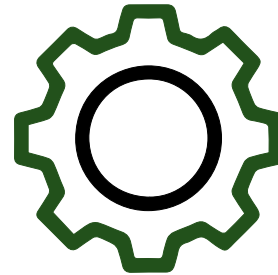
State Plan Update Sub-Projects



Technical
Studies



Stakeholder
Interviews



Generational
Workshops



Polls



Subgroup
Meetings

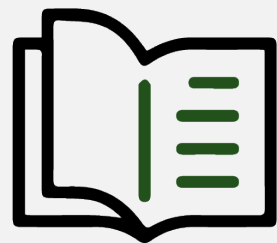


Issue
Papers



Community
Conferences

Task Force Next Steps



**Review
Foundational
Documents**

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



**Next
Meeting**

Workplan Discussion
Q3

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