

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 11, 2005

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1592

Honorable Members
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1592, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to State Planning."

The purpose of this bill is to establish a "Hawaii 2050 Task Force" to review the Hawaii State Plan and other fundamental components of community planning, to submit recommendations and information on significant planning matters, and to develop recommendations on creating the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan" to "ensure its relevance as a guide for the future long-term development of the State." The Legislative Auditor is required to prepare the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan," which is to define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priorities by incorporating some or all of the recommendations of the Hawaii 2050 Task Force.

This bill is objectionable because it fails to recognize the proper location & logical nexus for development of the Hawaii State Plan.

Assigning the Office of the Auditor with the responsibility for developing the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan" is not consistent with the Auditor's primary duties and appears to be an inappropriate function of that office. Pursuant to section 23-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Auditor's primary duties are "to conduct postaudits of the transactions, accounts, programs, and performance of all departments, offices, and agencies of the State and its political subdivisions" and "examinations to discover evidence of any unauthorized, illegal,

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irregular, improper, or unsafe handling or expenditure of state funds or improper practice of financial administration." The Office of Planning is responsible for comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning pursuant to chapter 225M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and is the more appropriate agency to develop the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan."

Second, this bill is objectionable because it requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) and other agencies to provide staff assistance to the task force without providing funds for that purpose. This requirement could adversely impact other work being done by DBEDT, such as its work to maintain economic momentum in a way that protects our cultural and natural resources and preserves our quality of life.

This bill would appropriate \$200,000 to the Auditor but provides no monies to the Office of Planning that is responsible for comprehensive long range and strategic planning. It appears this bill is a direct attempt to by-pass that Office and infringe upon the scope and responsibilities of the Executive Branch.

In addition, considering the significance of the subject matters being reviewed for the future welfare of the State, the task force is given relatively very little time to complete its assignment.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1592 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii