



Healthy Community Design Smart Growth Checklist

The Hawaii State Department of Health, Built Environment Working Group, recommends that State and County Planning Departments, developers, engineers and other professionals apply healthy built environment principles when they plan or review new developments or redevelopments. Government agencies should lead by example in their own projects. This checklist focuses on public health elements that would be integrated into land use and community planning and design. We ask you to share this list with others to increase community awareness of how to design healthier communities.

Healthy Built Environment Principles:

- Promote fitness through safe walking, biking, and other active transportation through connectivity of planned bikeways and paths with existing and adjacent networks, designing travelways that connect multiple destinations and encourage non-vehicular travel.
- Promote clean air by making transit convenient and comfortable, minimizing petroleum fueled car and truck use, and minimizing fossil energy use.
- Promote a healthy environment by buying green products, reducing, reusing & recycling, and minimizing waste in construction, operations, and demolition.
- Promote fitness and health by encouraging home and community gardens

Healthy Built Environment Best Practices:

Close Proximity to Existing/Future Development and Infrastructure

- Close to roadways, water and sewer service
- Located within growth/redevelopment area
- Walking distance to transit
- Next to or includes food/convenience/retail/services
- Next to or includes employment, recreation, entertainment
- Wide range of housing opportunities

Mix and Balance of Uses

- Multi-use buildings
- Multi-use districts
- Provide employment, housing, neighborhood serving retail/service
- Provide civic, educational, cultural recreation
- Provide street-level uses that maximize pedestrian activity

Site Optimization and Compactness

- Maximize allowable floor-area ratio
- Maximize dwelling unit/acreage density
- Maximize usable open space for gathering and recreation
- Maximize usable open space for home and community gardens
- Locate buildings at minimum setbacks or at "build-to" lines

Accessibility and Mobility Choices Provide:

- Shelters at transit stops and store fronts (e.g. awnings or arcades) and along paths and lanes.
- Pedestrian/bicycle/stroller/wheelchair facilities for and on transit
- Sidewalks, preferably on both sides of the street
- Walking and bike paths separate from roads (e.g. in greenways)
- Bike lanes in roads marked with paint and good signs

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Accessibility and Mobility Choices Provide:

- Shared paths & sidewalks marked to separate walkers and bicyclists. (paint, texture, signs)
- Bike racks, stroller storage
- Direct street connections, such as well-marked paths to front doors
- Parking lots & garages behind, above, or below buildings
- Connections to existing or planned parks, open space
- Raised or highly visible crosswalks near schools (paint and signs)
- Ramps, depressed curbs, and periodic breaks in curbs for people with disabilities
- Meet all ADA standards for accessibility

Healthy Designs for Indoor Areas

- Pleasant, wide central stairs provided to encourage walking
- Elevators stop on alternate floors (except ADA elevator)
- Bike/luggage/stroller ramps on stairs
- Indoor bicycle parking provided
- Showers and lockers provided at work sites

Community Context, Site Design, and Visual Appeal

- Preserve or re-use existing buildings/structures when feasible
- Incorporate buildings reflect local historic building materials, styles and/or design
- Include a map of the neighborhood and nearby street connections is included with plans
- Scale and mass of buildings relate to existing neighborhood structures
- Provide open access to all adjacent natural features such as coasts, streams, river-ways, mountains, forests, hiking, trails
- Create coastal, stream, and forest **green-ways** with walking and bike paths to town/village centers, parks, other destinations
- Insure automobile access makes minimum impact on pedestrian/bicyclist experience

- Create or enhance community spaces such as plazas, squares, parks, etc.
- Include open spaces and trails that provide opportunities for physical activity
- Provide play equipment in parks for children
- Include pedestrian/bicyclist-oriented landscaping and lighting

Fine - Grained Block, Pedestrian and Park Network

- Create street networks based on a grid system; avoid cul de sacs
- Incorporate short block lengths
- Design for traffic calming measures in and around residential areas
- Design pedestrian/bicycle systems to link with civic, cultural, retail/service destinations, and other paths
- A variety of park types and sizes

Environmental Quality

- Recycle materials from deconstruction of existing infrastructure
- Maximize energy efficiency of buildings
- Use green building materials when feasible
- Use energy conservation equipment, systems and/or programs
- Use water conservation systems
- Use rainwater on-site - provide storage, infiltration, irrigation
- Use on-site wastewater treatment & reuse or disposal where appropriate
- Use solar energy for heating and electricity
- Use wind energy
- Minimize artificial A/C, energy use, GHG emissions
- Protect, preserve and/or restore any on-site natural features such as steep slopes, wetlands, watersheds
- Create and maintain buffers around natural areas
- Plant native Hawaiian species
- Establish a recycling program for residents/tenants

Variety and Range

- Include a variety of building types and styles
- Include locally owned businesses in project
- Provide a wide-range in pricing structure of units that will be sold or leased
- Insure at least 20% of the units will be priced for very low and moderate incomes
- Provide a variety of densities in both residential and commercial employment units
- Vary setbacks
- Vary residential lot size
- Address need for community facilities

Re-Use and Redevelopment Options

- Install utility lines along access roads
- Install utility lines underground
- Master plans to show future/projected streets, blocks and development sites
- Include building types and structures that are adaptable to different uses

Process Collaboration and Predictability of Decisions

- Conduct pre-design workshops/Charrettes with stakeholders, agencies, and the public
- Provide public outreach regarding, input, project vision, goals, and timetable
- Provide a project model that serves as a visual representation of the project
- Contact State and county staff (planning, public works, etc) in all key departments in the planning phase of project development
- Develop Public/Private partnerships
- Align design plans with existing community and general plans