



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

September 25, 2019

Mr. Michael Yee, Planning Director
County of Hawaii
Planning Department
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawaii 96729

2019 SEP 30 pm 2 10
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Re: Review of the Draft General Plan 2040

Dear Mr. Yee:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) has the following comments on the Draft General Plan 2040 (Draft Plan).

Section 1: Natural Resources Planning – Mitigating & Adapting to Hazards and Climate Change
Agency Action 1.64 has HIDOE hardening facilities to serve as hurricane evacuation shelters.

Hardening of HIDOE facilities can occur with sufficient funding by emergency management agencies.

Section 4: Community Placemaking – Maintaining Educational Facilities as Anchor Institutions
Policy 344 emphasizes the role of school facilities as an anchor institution in the community.

All public school buildings, facilities, and grounds are available for public and community use. Procedures are in place for the public to request the use of a facility. These uses are subject to approval by the principal of the school to ensure safety and security of students, staff, and school facilities.

Policy 347 encourages the establishment and maintenance of joint use facilities, including schools yards, for community use.

The HIDOE's priority is the safety and security of students, staff, and school facilities. Future establishment of joint use facilities shall not compromise safety and security.

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Policy 349 calls for the establishment of public schools in underserved communities.

It is not clear to HIDOE what constitutes an underserved community.

Policy 352 supports the development of public schools to meet district needs while meeting school siting criteria.

It is not clear to HIDOE the intent and need for the County to develop and adopt school siting standards.

Policy 354 calls for the retrofitting of school buildings to serve as emergency shelters.

Retrofitting of school buildings can occur with sufficient funding by emergency management agencies.

Action 4.1 calls for the adoption of development standards for the siting of new schools or expanded public schools.

As previously stated, it is not clear to HIDOE the intent and need to develop and adopt County standards. New schools will be located in high growth areas to meet the demand for additional school capacity. These high growth areas are generally associated with large master planned communities. The HIDOE works with developers to identify, review and approve the location of a school site within the master planned communities. These master planned communities are subject to extensive review and approval by a number of government agencies, including the Planning Department.

Clarification is required as to what constitutes expansion of existing school facilities: i.e addition of land, new buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please contact Robyn Loudermilk, School Lands and Facilities Specialist of the Facilities Development Branch, Planning Section at (808) 784-5093 or via email at Robyn.Loudermilk@k12.hi.us.

Respectfully,



Kenneth G. Masden II
Public Works Manager
Planning Section

KGM:rl