

Sustainable Development and Resilient Communities – Integrated Systems

Public Comment Summary

County of Hawai'i Draft General Plan 2045

The public comment period for the Draft General Plan 2045 was held from September 18, 2023 to April 1, 2024. This comment summary contains the key themes derived from community feedback on the Sustainable Development and Resilient Communities – Integrated Systems section of the draft plan.

1. Government Efficiency and Accountability

Commenters call for enhanced integration and efficiency within county services, suggesting changes such as integrating systems to provide services, restructuring departments for efficiency, and ensuring fiscal responsibility with regular audits. The need for consistently maintained funding for maintenance following capital improvements is also highlighted. Calls for fiscal responsibility are evident, with suggestions to audit state and county departments regularly. Comments also express the need to efficiently allocate resources.

2. Housing and Urban Planning

There is a concern for proper urban development including support for mixed-unit developments and high-capacity housing. Also mentioned is a suggestion to amend zoning restrictions to be more inclusive.

3. Public Transparency and Participation

Comments reflect the need for clear communication and transparency in governmental proceedings to prevent practices like nepotism. There is support for improving the effectiveness of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to maintain transparency regarding the status of all county CIP projects.

4. Regional and Community Focused Policies

Advocacy for policies that consider the unique needs of different regions and communities, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach is expressed.

Comment	Page Number (in the online Konveio platform)
Fiscal responsibility is the sole purpose of our elected officials as it correlates with the infrastructure of the county's operations (Health, Education, Infrastructure, Rules & Regulations etc.) State and county departments MUST BE audited monthly to ensure efficient allocation. Income generation is proportionate with sustainability practices in water and waste management, farming for economic growth and stability providing careers and direct inclusion of residents in community and economic development. Foreign leased lands are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from receiving the DHHL lease parameters as these benefits were not created for anyone other than residents of kanaka maoli descent. Taxes also should be increased on exported goods and foreign leased lands unless investing in farm land as well as vacant commercial spaces; which could be repurposed for community growth in education such as trade schools or service industry concepts that give entrepreneurs an opportunity to share their gifts and talents such as (Safeway and K-mart in kona which could be reconstructed into classrooms, state/county offices or multiple restaurant concepts to repurpose the space and alleviate new construction. If another pandemic occurs there will be an inevitable increase in vacant buildings especially if new construction persists; reconstruction of a debilitated structure is considerable but not desired. Providing opportunity will be the key to economic growth as well as monitoring unions and regulate financial assistance (EBT, Food stamps, stimulus checks, unemployment benefits) to minimize an inefficient workforce and complacency among residents. Parameters must be implemented for individuals to qualify for benefits such as job applications, drug testing, and disability because laziness is not a disability. Every able-bodied citizen should contribute to the well-being of the community providing some form of service that benefits other residents. Tourism is a great industry and we love sharing what our island offers, however, they must be held to the same standard as residents, respect this place or leave. Each island as a county SHOULD be able to govern itself because realistically systematic implementation on one island does not affect another, however, when taxes are increased for islands outside of O'ahu to support the rail they may never use is unethical. We must be responsible for the lands we directly affect and adopt methods of more successful communities.	157
INDEED, I know of more than two projects that were sketch...Rid the County of of nepotism and you will be doing one of the GREATEST improvements possible. MAHALO!	158
Is this not counter productive to encourage building housing?	158
This is one of the most important sections of this entire document. At a Downtown Improvement Association meeting, I was made aware that the DPW crew that takes care of the trash in downtown Hilo is not the same crew as Parks and Rec that takes care of garbage at other county areas. This is madness. It should all be under the same jurisdiction. Because it is not, there is not adequate staff to take care of all trash at all facilities on all days. Without integrated systems to facilitate efficient collaboration between departments to manage something as basic as trash pick up, the rest of the goals and objectives laid out in this plan will never come to fruition.	156
Consistency is needed across administrations	156
A policy paradigm shift away from the West vs East Hawaii dichotomy to one that recognizes the different needs and contributions of each region (NSWE) and even every community within these regions would be helpful.	158
YES PLEASE!	158
No. This can easily be abused to discriminate against some citizens.	158
Or, "we employ integrated systems..."	157

do we want to consider removing the building department from DPW and have it as a standalone department, the director would be selected and managed by a commission, with all the permitting review personal under one roof (county and state) to help make the process more efficient?	159
Make sure funding for capital Improvements includes where money for future maintenance will come from.	158
Support mixed unit development, high capacity housing, apartments, less restrictions in areas zoned for single family dwelling in urban areas.	158
This sounds a bit Big Brother-ish. Perhaps a bit of word smithing such as: "we will provide government services through integrated systems...."	157