

# APPENDIX A

County of Hawaii General Plan  
February 2005  
Goals and Policies

The following list includes only the goals and policies pertinent to the County of Hawaii Water Use and Development Plan.

**A.1 ECONOMIC**

**A.1.1 Economic Goals:**

- (a) Provide residents with opportunities to improve their quality of life through economic development that enhances the County's natural and social environments.
- (b) Economic development and improvement shall be in balance with the physical, social, and cultural environments of the island of Hawaii.
- (c) Strive for diversity and stability in the economic system.
- (d) Provide an economic environment that allows new, expanded, or improved economic opportunities that are compatible with the County's cultural, natural and social environment.
- (e) Strive for an economic climate that provides its residents an opportunity for choice of occupation.
- (f) Strive for diversification of the economy by strengthening existing industries and attracting new endeavors.
- (g) Strive for full employment.
- (h) Promote and develop the island of Hawaii into a unique scientific and cultural model, where economic gains are in balance with social and physical amenities. Development should be reviewed on the basis of total impact on the residents of the County, not only in terms of immediate short run economic benefits.

**A.1.2 Economic Policies:**

- (a) Assist in the expansion of the agricultural industry through the protection of important agricultural lands, development of marketing plans and programs, capital improvements and continued co-operation with appropriate State and Federal agencies.
- (b) Encourage the expansion of the research and development industry by working with and supporting the University of Hawaii at Hilo and West Hawaii, the Natural Energy Laboratory at Hawaii Authority and other agencies' programs that support sustainable economic development in the County of Hawaii.

- (c) Encourage the development of a visitor industry that is in harmony with the social, physical, and economic goals of the residents of the County.
- (d) Require a study of the significant cultural, social and physical impacts of large developments prior to approval.
- (e) Encourage the sustainable development of the fishing industry, various forms of aquaculture, and other fresh and sea water-based activities.
- (f) Support all levels of educational, employment and training opportunities and institutions.
- (g) Capital improvements program shall improve the quality of existing commercial and industrial areas.
- (h) The land, water, air, sea, and people shall be considered as essential resources for present and future generations and should be protected and enhanced through the use of economic incentives.
- (i) Continue to encourage the research, development and implementation of advanced technologies and processes.
- (j) Support the development of high technology industries.
- (k) Continue to encourage development and utilization of by-products from alternate energy conversion processes.
- (l) Identify and encourage primary industries that are consistent with the social, physical, and economic goals of the residents of the County.
- (m) Encourage active liaison with the private sector with respect to the County's requirements for establishing businesses on the island.
- (n) Encourage the development of the retirement industry.
- (o) Promote a distinctive industry for the island of Hawaii to enable government, business and travel industries to promote the County of Hawaii as an entity unique within the State of Hawaii.
- (p) Identify the needs of the business community and take actions that are necessary to improve the business climate.
- (q) Support research and development that would lead to the removal of marketing restrictions on Hawaiian fruits and other perishables.

- (r) Assist in the development of a film and video industry program to market Big Island sites and co-ordinate film and video activities on the Big Island.
- (s) Assist the further development of agriculture through the protection of important agricultural lands.
- (t) Assist in the promotion of the agricultural industry whose products are recognized as being produced on the island of Hawaii.
- (u) Encourage the establishment of open farmers markets to allow local agricultural producers to market their products.
- (v) Assist in the co-operative marketing and distribution endeavors to expand opportunities for local agricultural products for export as well as to the local market.
- (w) Encourage the further development of the overseas capacity of Hilo International Airport for the exportation of agricultural crops.
- (x) Encourage the health/wellness industry.
- (y) Encourage new industries that provide favorable benefit-cost relationships to the people of the County. Benefit-cost relationships include more than fiscal considerations.

## **A.2 ENVIRONMENTAL**

### **A.2.1 Environmental Quality Goals:**

- (a) Define the most desirable use of land within the County that achieves an ecological balance providing residents and visitors the quality of life and an environment in which the natural resources of the island are viable and sustainable.
- (b) Maintain and, if feasible, improve the existing environmental quality of the island.
- (c) Control pollution.

### **A.2.2 Environmental Quality Policies (Applicable to Water):**

- (a) Take positive action to further maintain the quality of the environment.
- (b) Reinforce and strengthen established standards where it is necessary, principally by initiating, recommending, and adopting ordinances pertaining to the control of pollutants that affect the environment.

- (c) Advise the public of environmental conditions and research undertaken on the island's environment.
- (d) Encourage the concept of recycling agricultural, industrial, and municipal waste material.
- (e) Encourage the State to establish air and water quality monitoring stations in areas of existing and potential urban growth.
- (f) Participate in watershed management projects to improve stream and coastal water quality and encourage local communities to develop such projects.
- (g) Work with the appropriate agencies to adopt appropriate measures and provide incentives to control point and non-point sources of pollution.
- (h) Require golf courses to implement best management practices to limit leaching of nutrients to groundwater in areas where they may affect streams or coastal ecosystems.
- (i) Require implementation of the management measures contained in Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program as a condition of land use permitting.
- (j) Review the County grading and grubbing ordinances to ensure that they adequately address potential erosion and runoff problems.

### **A.3 NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **A.3.1 Natural Resources Goals (Applicable to Water):**

- (a) Protect and conserve the natural resources from undue exploitation, encroachment and damage.
- (b) Protect and effectively manage Hawaii's open space, watersheds, shoreline, and natural areas.
- (c) Ensure that alterations to existing land forms, vegetation, and construction of structures cause minimum adverse effect to water resources, and scenic and recreational amenities and minimum danger of floods, landslides, erosion, siltation, or failure in the event of an earthquake.

#### **A.3.2 Natural Resources Policies (Applicable to Water):**

- (a) Encourage a program of collection and dissemination of basic data concerning natural resources.
- (b) Co-ordinate programs to protect natural resources with other governmental agencies.

- (c) Encourage public and private agencies to manage the natural resources in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects on the environment and depletion of energy and natural resources to the fullest extent.
- (d) Encourage an overall conservation ethic in the use of Hawaii's resources by protecting, preserving, and conserving the critical and significant natural resources of the County of Hawaii.
- (e) Encourage the protection of watersheds, forest, brush, and grassland from destructive agents and uses.
- (f) An identification of forest lands suitable for watershed purposes should be conducted jointly by County, appropriate State and Federal agencies, and private landowners.
- (g) Encourage appropriate State agencies to review and designate forest and watershed areas into the conservation district during State land use boundary comprehensive reviews.
- (h) Ensure that activities authorized or funded by the County do not damage important natural resources.
- (i) Within the Kona high rainfall/fog-drip belt, ground disturbing activities such as excessive soil compaction and excessive removal of vegetative cover should be minimized and mitigated consistent with management strategies that encourage the retention of existing forested and pasture areas, reforestation, minimal coverage by the impervious surfaces and other strategies that encourage effective infiltration to groundwater.

#### **A.4 PUBLIC UTILITIES**

##### **A.4.1 Public Utilities Goals:**

- (a) Ensure that properly regulated, adequate, efficient and dependable public and private utility services are available to users.
- (b) Maximize efficiency and economy in the provision of public utility services.
- (c) Design public utility facilities to fit into their surroundings or concealed from public view.

##### **A.4.2 Public Utilities Policies (Applicable to Water):**

- (a) Water system improvements shall correlate with the County's desired land use development system.
- (b) All water systems shall be designed and built to Department of Water Supply standards.

- (c) Improve and replace inadequate systems.
- (d) Water sources shall be adequately protected to prevent depletion and contamination from natural and man-made occurrences of events.
- (e) Water system improvements should first be installed in areas that have established needs and characteristics, such as occupied dwellings, agricultural operations and other uses, or in areas adjacent to them if there is need for urban expansion.
- (f) A co-ordinated effort by County, State and private interests shall be developed to identify sources of additional water supply and be implemented to ensure the development of sufficient quantities of water for existing and future needs of high growth areas and agricultural production.
- (g) The fire prevention systems shall be co-ordinated with water distribution systems in order to ensure water supplies for fire protection services.
- (h) Develop and adopt standards for individual water catchment units.
- (i) Co-operate with the State Department of Health to develop standards and/or guidelines for the construction and use of rainwater catchment systems to minimize the intrusion of any chemical and microbiological contaminants.
- (j) Co-operate with appropriate State and Federal agencies and the private sector to develop, improve and expand agricultural water systems in appropriate areas on the island.
- (k) Promote the use of ground water sources to meet State Department of Health water quality standards.
- (l) Continue to participate in the United States Geological Survey's exploratory well drilling program.
- (m) Seek State and Federal funds to assist in financing projects to bring the County into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- (n) Develop and adopt a water master plan that will consider water yield, present and future demand, alternative sources of water, guidelines and policies for the issuing of water commitments.
- (o) Expand programs to provide for agricultural irrigation water.

**A.5 LAND USE**

**A.5.1 Land Use Goals:**

- (a) Designate and allocate land uses in appropriate proportions of mix and in keeping with the social, cultural, and physical environments of the County.
- (b) Protect and encourage the intensive and extensive utilization of the County's important agricultural lands.
- (c) Protect and preserve forest, water, natural and scientific reserves and open areas.

**A.5.2 Land Use Policies (Applicable to Water):**

- (a) Zone urban-types of uses in areas with ease of access to community services and employment centers and with adequate public utilities and facilities.
- (b) Promote and encourage the rehabilitation and use of urban areas that are serviced by basic community faculties and utilities.
- (c) Allocate appropriate requested zoning in accordance with the existing or projected needs of neighborhood, community, region and County.
- (d) Encourage urban development within existing zoned areas already served by basic infrastructure, or close to such areas, instead of scattered development.