Executive Policy Chapter 4, Planning

Executive Policy 4.202, System-wide Sustainability

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Responsible Office: Office of the Vice President for Administration

Governing Board of Regents Policy, RP 4.201

Review Date: August 2017

**Introduction**

The University of Hawai‘i (University or UH) has a rich history of research, teaching and curriculum development, service, and stakeholder activism on issues of sustainability. The University recognizes the rich foundation of indigenous Hawaiian cultural values and knowledge, and seeks to learn from this foundation to develop a uniquely strong response to climate change and sustainability challenges.

Hawai‘i is the most fossil fuel dependent state in the U.S.—nearly 90% of the state’s energy is derived from fossil fuel, producing the highest electricity rates in the U.S. and jeopardizing the state’s food security, cultural stability, economy, and the health of the physical environment. Meanwhile, Hawai‘i is one of few states with a climate change law ([Act 234, Session Laws of Hawai‘i, 2007](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HB226_cd1_.htm)), and it has one of the most aggressive renewable energy policies in the country ([Hawai‘i Clean Energy Initiative 2008](http://www.hawaiicleanenergyinitiative.org/)) and ambitious state sustainability goals endorsed by the legislature in the Aloha + Challenge (Hawai‘i Green Growth Hawai‘i) and the Hawai‘i State Sustainability Plan. Given the State's ambitious energy and sustainability goals, it is imperative that the UH System, one of the largest consumers of fossil fuel sourced energy in the State, establishes an equally ambitious sustainability policy to ensure it continues to deliver world class educational and research opportunities for generations to come.

Every campus has the opportunity and obligation to establish sustainability principles for all campus activities and to set data-based performance measures to improve resource use efficiencies, increase the generation and use of renewable energy, and conserve state social, cultural, economic, and environmental resources. Furthermore, the University is in a position to increase knowledge in all areas of sustainability, and this policy encourages interested faculty to research and study problems that directly affect campus and community sustainability and to include hands-on problem-solving in curriculum.

1. **Purpose**
2. To establish a mechanism through which administrators, faculty, staff, and students implement the sustainability goals in accordance with the policy established by the Board of Regents (BOR).
3. To further define goals in the areas of operations, planning and administration, campus and public engagement, and cultural and community connections. These goals shall serve to guide the campus strategic planning efforts for all campuses.
4. To provide system-wide metrics and targets for improved efficiency and reduced resource waste for buildings, climate, dining, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste and water.
5. To establish mechanisms to track and re-invest savings from sustainability initiatives to maximize efficiencies and reduce waste.
6. To establish a reporting framework and timeline.
7. To establish a campus culture that integrates sustainability values in an island context with global impact.

**II. Definitions**

As used in this policy, sustainability means serving the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future.

1. **Executive Policy**
2. Objectives

It is the policy of the University to encourage and support campus efforts that:

* 1. Teach students the domain knowledge, thinking skills, and affective qualities and values relevant to their future.
  2. Exemplify sustainable practices in the management of campus facilities and operations, fiscal resources and human resources.
  3. Develop reciprocal community partnerships that nourish and share diverse expertise and wisdom.
  4. Deploy System resources to advance Hawai‘i’s sustainable future.
  5. Seek federal research investment in climate change and sustainability.

1. Guidelines

To assist campuses in organizing their sustainability efforts, this policy divides sustainability implementation activity into five thematic areas: Operations; Curriculum and Research; Co-ordination, Planning and Governance; Campus and Public Engagement; and Cultural and Community Connections.

1. Operations

The University is committed to continuous improvement in reducing its ecological footprint and becoming ecologically restorative in buildings, climate, food systems, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water. The following guidelines shall be incorporated into each campus’ sustainability policy.

1. Integrating With Existing Assets of the University

(1) Utilize existing knowledge assets of faculty and students to inform facilities and operations.

(2) Track and report on campus-level student engagement with operations and facilities.

1. Sustainably Designed and Operated Buildings

(1) Embody the sustainability values of the University in the design and operation in new construction, retrofits, and renovations of the built environment; shall have system-wide design standards, and meet or exceed these design standards.

(2) Renovations and retrofits shall meet or exceed efficiency standards established by UH Building Design and Performance Standards.

(3) New buildings and major renovations shall achieve a minimum of LEED “Silver” standards and will strive for LEED “Gold”.

(4) Exemplify transferable sustainable solutions in all campus facilities including classrooms, offices, laboratories, assembly, auxiliary, athletics and support services.

(5) Integrate and support ongoing monitoring based commissioning to fine tune operations and improve efficiency of existing buildings by establishing staffing for energy management teams at every campus.

(6) Require that life cycle costing and/or internal rate of return on investments be considered for new equipment purchases and facility retrofits, and develop mechanisms and standards for how this should be done.

(7) All buildings shall be individually metered, benchmarked, and the campus shall strive to establish building managements systems for campus buildings.

(8) Reduce fossil fuel sourced energy through increased efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. Meet or exceed the following energy reduction and renewable targets:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | by 2020 | by 2025 | by 2030 | by 2035 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Energy efficiency | 15% | 25% | 30% | 40% |
| Renewables | 5% | 10% | 25% | 40% |

c. Climate Protection

(1) Establish a plan to track, report and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

(2) Establish a plan to become carbon neutral by 2050.

d. Dining Services

(1) When financially viable, prioritize purchasing local and sustainable food products.

(2) Establish a tracking mechanism and establish targets and milestones, based on benchmarks and metrics developed by the National Association of College and University Food Service’s (NACUFS) Sustainability Guide for the implementation of sustainable food service practices.

e. Energy

(1) Maximize energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy storage opportunities.

(2) By 2017, create a system to re-invest savings and costs avoided into sustainability projects and create mechanisms to bundle projects with longer paybacks with those with more rapid payback periods.

(3) Establish a Strategic Energy Partnership in collaboration with stakeholders that may include the Public Utilities Commission, Hawai‘i Energy, the utility company, the UH Foundation, and others to finance energy efficiency and demand management projects.

(4) Each campus shall establish a plan for grid modernization to allow for optimal energy and demand management at the building and distribution levels. The plan will be updated at least every three years and reported on to the Office of President.

f. Grounds and Landscaping

(1) Support imparting a Hawaiian Sense of Place on campus through landscaping, signage and the creation of gathering spaces to enable social and cultural sustainability of campus communities.

(2) Select plant species adapted to thrive within recorded annual average rainfall amounts of each campus’ geographic area in order to reduce water usage.

(3) Select non-invasive, native and endemic plant species for all new landscaping installations to protect and enhance our islands’ unique biodiversity.

g. Purchasing

(1) Establish a Green Purchasing Policy for all supplies, equipment and building materials (including computers, cleaning products, paper and other material goods) which strives to integrate sustainability criteria into vendor selection processes.

(2) Sustainability criteria shall consider environmental, social and cultural factors on par with bottom line cost for purchasing or contracting.

h. Transportation

(1) Establish metrics and reporting mechanisms to track fuel efficiency and sustainability for campus fleets.

(2) Work with state, cities, counties and regional stakeholders to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips to the campus, support optional modes of transportation, and encourage bicycle and pedestrian friendly campuses and communities.

i. Waste

(1) Establish metrics and reporting mechanisms to track total solid waste generated, waste source reduction, recycling, reuse of materials, green waste, food waste, electronic waste, use of single use plastics, and bioconversion.

j. Water

(1) Establish metrics and reporting mechanisms to track water conservation, water efficiency and best management practices methods for stormwater storage, recharge and reuse on the campus and wastewater management to reduce effluent discharge into local surface water supplies.

2. Curriculum and Research

The University shall encourage, facilitate and support curriculum development, and primary and applied research initiatives that advance the principles of sustainability, and enable cross-campus collaborations that integrate teaching and research with solutions at the campus and community levels.  Specific goals include:

a. Co-Curricular Education

(1) Each campus shall serve as a living laboratory for site-specific research, student life and co-curricular programs that engage the campus community and integrate sustainability in classrooms, offices, laboratories, assembly, auxiliary, athletics and support services.

b. Curriculum

(1) Continue to integrate sustainability into existing curriculum.

(2) Continue to develop appropriate, well-articulated new courses and programs that articulate across campuses.

(3) Track, integrate, assess and provide professional development for sustainability curriculum.

c. Research

(1) Support research that brings science to the issues of sustainability—the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental aspects—and related public policy, practice and implementation.

(2) Ensure that research activity is sustainable in use of energy and other resources, and positively benefits, and includes the community it serves (social/environmental/climate justice).

(3) Track, integrate, assess and provide professional development for sustainability research.

(4) Utilize scholarship of community engagement principles to conduct ethically engaged research.

(5) Engages community members with the aim of combining knowledge and action to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes (e.g., participatory and community-based research and engaged scholarship).

3. Coordination, Planning and Governance

There shall be an Office of Sustainability within the Office of the Vice President for Administration to ensure sustainability shall be incorporated into planning, budgeting, and decision-making throughout the institution. The University will institutionalize sustainability by dedicating resources to coordination, staffing, measuring and publicizing of the sustainability initiatives. An ongoing system of planning, reporting, evaluating, and improving upon specific metrics and performance targets will be developed.

The Office of Sustainability shall be housed under the Office of the Vice President for Administration and perform the following functions:

* Develop and implement strategies to achieve University of Hawai‘i Board Of Regents Sustainability Goals of carbon neutrality, zero waste and local food procurement
* Coordinate and implement strategies to support energy efficiency and renewable energy goals
* Work with the UH Foundation to develop and cultivate a sustainability‑focused donor base
* Provide leadership to integrate sustainability goals in support of the University of Hawai‘i’s long-range planning activities

4. Campus and Public Engagement

The University is committed to transdisciplinary engagement of students, faculty, staff, and the local community to prioritize and implement sustainable practices. The classroom, the campus, and the community are one interconnected learning opportunity. The University shall:

a. Provide professional development for University staff and faculty on sustainability and encourage sustainability in course curriculum equally with student life and activities on the living laboratory of the campus.

b. Cultivate sustainability as a major funding activity of the UH Foundation.

c. Develop assessment practices which assess community perceptions of institutional engagement; track and record institution-wide engagement data; assess the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, the community, and the institution; identify and assess student learning outcomes in curricular engagement; and provide ongoing feedback mechanisms for community partnerships.

d. Establish processes of initiating and nurturing authentically collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with the communities we serve, and develop strategies for systematic communication.

e. Develop criteria that validate appropriate methodologies and scholarly artifacts to recognize and reward faculty who engage effectively with communities in teaching and learning, and in research and creative activity.

f. Develop collaborative internal practices that integrate disparate initiatives into more coherent community engagement efforts, e.g., first-year programs that include community engagement; learning communities in which community engagement is integrated into the design; or diversity initiatives that explicitly link active and collaborative community-based teaching and learning with the academic success of underrepresented students.

5. Cultural and Community Connections

Recognizing the unique and respected host Hawaiian culture, the geographic remoteness of the islands, and the rich diversity of cultures in Hawai‘i, the University will create a sustainable living and learning environment that honors its cultural foundation and addresses the issues of its location. The University will proactively form working relationships with external partners to understand community, workforce and business needs, to bring higher education, research and service outreach value to the community, to help shape economic structures, employment opportunities and integrated, 21st Century sustainable solutions for Hawai‘i, the region and beyond.

a. Cultural Connections

(1) Embrace the culture and fundamental values of indigenous people of Hawai‘i.

(2) Cultivate an inclusive community of people with varied characteristics, ideas, cultures and world views where our students, faculty and staff celebrate difference and respect tradition.

(3) Foster cross-cultural awareness to promote an intellectual and social environment that challenges all of us to learn and grow.

b. Community Connections

(1) Support sustainability and science education initiatives in Hawai‘i's public schools.

(2) Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with informal organizations, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and other colleges and universities in Hawai‘i to advance sustainability initiatives and create internship opportunities for students.

C. Campus Policies

1. Each University Chancellor and the Vice President for Community Colleges, on behalf of the community college system, will develop and adopt its own sustainability policy and implementation plan by 2015. Such plans shall, at a minimum, include:

a. Elements that incorporate the five thematic areas identified in Sections 1-5 above.

b. The establishment of working groups on specific topics of system-wide strategic importance.

c. A mechanism to track and collect data that empirically measures the advancement made in all of the five thematic areas above.

2. Each University Chancellor and the Vice President for Community Colleges shall report annually to the Board and the President regarding advancement made toward implementation and execution of this policy.

1. **Delegation of Authority**
2. The Vice President for Administration is delegated authority to develop specific processes that carry out the intent of this Executive Policy. The Vice President or his/her designee shall report to the President annually on the progress in carrying out the University’s commitment to sustainability.
3. There shall be a Sustainability Council that provides oversight and advice on the implementation of this policy at the System and campus level. The Sustainability Council shall report directly to the Vice President for Administration and include, at a minimum, representation from the following offices or their designees:
   * + 1. Vice President for Administration
       2. Vice President for Community Colleges
       3. Office of the Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
       4. Office of the Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu
       5. Office of the Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
       6. Office of the Chancellor, University of Hawai‘i Maui College
       7. Office of the Chancellor, Hawai‘i Community College
       8. Office of the Chancellor, Honolulu Community College
       9. Office of the Chancellor, Kaua‘i Community College
       10. Office of the Chancellor, Kapi‘olani Community College
       11. Office of the Chancellor, Leeward Community College
       12. Office of the Chancellor, Windward Community College
       13. Chairperson of the Sustainability Curriculum Council
       14. Campus sustainability professionals

C. There shall be a Sustainability Curriculum Council that provides support and advice to the campuses regarding: scholarly, scientific, and community-engaged research projects in sustainability; integrating sustainability into existing courses across the curriculum; developing new sustainability courses, programs, certificates and degrees; and supporting and assisting current BAS degree programs to evolve, excel and flourish.

The Sustainability Curriculum Council shall report directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and include, at a minimum, representation from the following offices or their designees:

1. Office of the President designees

2. Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

3. Faculty Senate designees

4. University of Hawai‘i at Manoa Faculty Senate designees

5. University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu Faculty Senate designees

6. University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Faculty Senate designees

7. University of Hawai‘i Maui College Faculty Senate designees

8. Hawai‘i Community College Faculty Senate designees

9. Honolulu Community College Faculty Senate designees

10. Kaua‘i Community College Faculty Senate designees

11. Kapi‘olani Community College Faculty Senate designees

12. Leeward Community College Faculty Senate designees

13. Windward Community College Faculty Senate designees

14. Chairperson of the Sustainability Council

15. Campus sustainability professionals

**V. Contact Information**

Office of the Vice President for Administration at 808-[956-6405](tel:808.956-6405) or by email at jgouveia@Hawai‘i.edu.

**Approved:**

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David Lassner Date

President