

The New EDH 2025 Sustainability Measures Column

A sustainable Downtown Hilo is one that meets the needs of those of the present without compromising our ability to meet the needs and opportunities of future generations. EnVision Downtown Hilo 2025 strives towards a sustainable urban model so as to ensure that the choices we make today not only enhance our quality of life, but also do not compromise our children's, or our grandchildren's, future. Our principles of sustainability encompass the big picture, whether we are evaluating our economy, our ecological footprint, or our personal health. To create and maintain a sustainable Downtown Hilo is critical to the larger health and future prosperity of the greater Hilo area and the Island of Hawai`i itself.

To encourage sustainable implementation, we embrace the two core values: firstly, implementation is built upon a foundation of diverse stakeholder involvement which provides collaborative dialogue on key topics and issues of concern to the community. Secondly, we strive to build local leadership capacity to ensure that actions can be initiated and implemented. With those values in mind, the Sustainability Measures column has been created to ensure that the EnVision Downtown Hilo 2025 Living Action Plan is progressive with recognized planning strategies and industry 'best practices,' and to provide a prioritization tool in which to evaluate the specific actions of the Plan. We consulted with a variety of respected resources in order to custom-fit 10 measures that encompass the diverse elements of sustainability with the unique needs of Downtown Hilo.

The Sustainability Measures provide tools for shaping sustainably-oriented implementation. They direct us to reassess current standards and guidelines to ensure that they too evolve in accordance with a sustainable focus; for example, to allow wide, covered sidewalks that will enhance walkability and access. Recognizing specific actions as sustainably crucial will enable community stakeholders, Lead Solution Partners, and funding organizations to clearly identify which actions are interconnected, and which actions have been prioritized as fundamental for Next Step development. For funding purposes, the column will aid users in identifying which actions relate to basic sustainability principles, thus ensuring that the project is in line with their particular objective.

Below are the 10 Sustainability Measures. Notice that each Sustainability Measure has a corresponding icon which will appear in the matrix column to signify that it fit into the measure's criteria. Any actions which contain several icons are considered sustainably-focused and warrant priority implementation.

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Mixed-Use Development. This measure highlights actions which promote, develop, or enhance a variety of land uses within the downtown area. For our purposes, mixed-use development refers to the practice of mixing retail, residential, and office space uses within the specific area of Downtown Hilo. The most common example of mixed-use can be seen in buildings which contain storefronts at ground level and office space or apartment residencies in the floors above. Promoting mixed-use development enables the downtown to develop a dense urban fabric, it can enhance economic vitality, it increases safety through an “eyes on the street” approach, and it creates a downtown core where essential services are close and accessible. This measure is highlighted within these recognized strategies: Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and True Urbanism.



Multi-modal Transportation. This measure highlights actions that promote a variety of transportation options such as public transit, shuttle service, park-and-ride options, private vehicles, pedestrians, scooters, bicycles, rollerblades, etc. Downtown Hilo should be an area of “complete streets” which are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Actions will receive this icon if they promote alternative modes of transportation that will contribute to a decrease of private vehicle congestion in the downtown urban core, and actions that ensure that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move on and cross our downtown streets. This measure is highlighted within these recognized strategies: Smart Growth, New Urbanism, New Pedestrianism, Transit-Oriented Development, Complete Streets, and True Urbanism.



Healthy Living & Walkability. This measure recognizes that an active and economically healthy downtown is directly related to residents with healthy and active lifestyles. We recognize that vital goods and services within close proximities will enable and encourage walking and other forms of physically active transport, and can contribute to decreased vehicle congestion in the downtown area. This icon will highlight actions that promote active living, pedestrian-oriented and pedestrian-priority streets, a downtown core of short distances, and other health-promoting projects. Design elements of pedestrian-oriented streets utilize traffic-calming methods such as curving roadways, medians, traffic “bubbles,” crosswalk pavers, planter boxes, eaves which protect pedestrians from rain, wide sidewalks, plenty of crosswalks, and benches.

This measure is highlighted within these recognized strategies: Smart Growth, New Urbanism, New Pedestrianism, Transit-Oriented Development, Complete Streets, and True Urbanism.



Earth-Friendly. We believe that a sustainable society is environmentally proactive and seeks to find a balance with its natural surroundings. This measure focuses on projects that are environmentally sensitive, particularly in regards to resource conservation and the utilization of renewable energy sources. This icon will appear on actions related to environmentally-conscious projects such as photovoltaic systems (including street lighting), curbside recycling programs, street trees, bioswales (to reduce stormwater runoff), rainwater harvesting, stormwater reclamation, and environmental education programs, events, and studies.

This measure is inspired by principles within New Urbanism & the Hawaii 2050 Plan.



Green Building & Infrastructure. This measure highlights projects which employ recognized green building strategies for new construction, community infrastructure, or the remodeling of existing buildings. Green building and infrastructure standards are focused on reducing the impact of the built environment on the natural environment, with a particular emphasis on human health and the overarching life cycle costs of development. In 2006, Hawaii State Law mandated that new State buildings follow green building standards (LEED), and also required that Hawaii counties promote green building projects. To qualify for this icon, the action project must adhere to at least LEED-Silver standards.



Civic Gathering Spaces. This measure highlights public gathering spaces that draw us together and enhance our community. In following the ancient tradition of a town square or a central market place serving as the vital hub of a city, we want to celebrate actions that will enhance civic gathering spaces and promote gathering events in the downtown area. An action will receive this icon if it directly contributes to the promotion of existing or new civic gathering spaces or events.

This measure was inspired by a combination of principles within True Urbanism.



Parks & Natural Spaces. This measure recognizes actions that promote the development, expansion, and maintenance of downtown parks and natural spaces, including pocket-parks, the urban treescape, and natural view planes. By enhancing our urban parks and open spaces, we can protect sensitive environmental areas near the bay, employ natural flood and erosion control strategies, moderate ambient air temperatures from the heat-island effect,

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increase property values, and create a pleasant and attractive downtown experience that will add to our quality of life.

This measure is an adaptation of a Smart Growth principle.



Ohana Tradition. The Hawaiian culture is centered around the *ohana*, which extends toward the greater community as we acknowledge our interdependent relationships with those around us. We believe that our downtown's true measurement of success relates to a prioritization of our children and a true dedication to our seniors, and that by focusing on our community *ohana*, we honor the values of our host-culture. This measure focuses on the downtown area being a safe and healthy place for the entire family - from the *kupuna* to the *keiki*. To that end, we want our downtown to reflect a celebratory atmosphere where the child in all of us feels safe to play, learn, interact, and explore. This icon will appear on actions that relate to cultural programs, youth and senior activities, after-school programs, programs & events that promote art/music/theater, pedestrian safety concerns (for example, programs to ensure safe walking routes to schools), crime prevention, and access issues. This measure was inspired by True Urbanism, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, and Complete Streets.



Equitable Access. We believe that all residents and visitors to Downtown Hilo should be free of economic, social, or physical obstacles to downtown services and amenities. This measure will acknowledge actions that ensure that our downtown is a fair space that is considerate and appreciative of the diversity of the human experience. Examples of the type of actions that relate to equitable access are: signs which utilize meaningful icons redundant with textual information, smooth ground surfaces, ramps, curb cuts, and appropriate non-English language usage in signs. This measure was inspired and adapted from the principles of Universal Design, The Portland Plan, and Complete Streets.



Heart of Hilo. This measure highlights the philosophy that Downtown Hilo is the heart of Hilo. This measure ensures that Downtown Hilo remains a focal point of activity and reminds us that the presence of people underlies a sustainable society. Actions that directly contribute to creating an energetic and vibrant downtown area that will enrich and uplift our human experience will receive this icon. Examples include: visible art such as murals and sculptures, beautification projects, sidewalk cafes, performing arts, and outdoor entertainment. This measure was inspired and adapted from principles in Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and True Urbanism.

To Learn more about these progressive planning strategies, please see:

Smart Growth: <http://www.smartgrowth.org>

New Urbanism: <http://www.newurbanism.org>

New Pedestrianism: <http://www.pedestrianvillages.com>

Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan: www.hawaii2050.org

The Portland Plan: <http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/>

Complete Streets: <http://www.completestreets.org>

True Urbanism: <http://www.livablecities.org/TrueUrbanism.htm>

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): www.usgbc.org

Universal Design: http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud/about_ud/udprinciples.htm